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60



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# TELL ME WHY

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## Red Carpet for Courage!

It was March, 1815. Napoleon was returning from his exile on the island of Elba. It is amusing to see how newspapers reported his return. Just take a look at these headlines that appeared in a French newspaper:

March 9 - *The Monster has escaped from his place of banishment.*

March 10 - *The Corsican Ogre has landed at Cape Juan.*

March 13 - *The Tyrant is now at Lyon.*

March 19 - *Bonaparte is advancing by forced marches, but it is impossible that he can reach Paris.*

March 20 - *Napoleon will arrive under the walls of Paris tomorrow.*

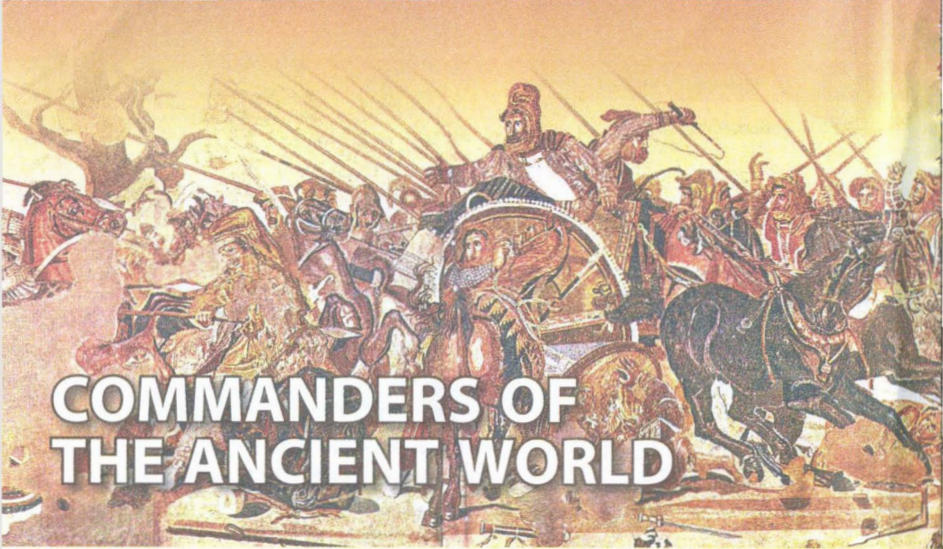
March 21 - *The Emperor Napoleon is at Fontainebleau.*

March 22 - *Yesterday evening, His Majesty the Emperor made his public entry and arrived at the Tuileries. Nothing can exceed the universal joy.*

The newspaper was just reflecting the attitude of a society that bowed before the conquering hero.

This issue of Tell Me Why helps you to march with some such heroic commanders who made history march behind them.

**FROM THE HOUSE OF MAGIC POT, MANORAMA YEAR BOOK, VANITHA, THE WEEK AND THE MALAYALA MANORAMA DAILY**



# COMMANDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

## Why is the life of Sargon the Great shrouded in legend?

Sargon the Great was the ruler of the Akkadians, who conquered the land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers around 2300 BC. According to legend, Sargon's mother was a princess, and his father a poor gardener. His mother abandoned him, and put him in a reed basket which she then set float on the river. However, he was rescued by a gardener named Akki, and he became a favourite of the Goddess Ishtar.

With the goddess's blessings, he came to the court of the king. In time, he built himself a new city at Akkad, and made himself

its king. He gradually conquered all the land around him. In this way, he built the first empire that we know of - the Akkadian Empire. His empire was great indeed, extending throughout Mesopotamia. He sent expeditions into Asia Minor and Southeast Arabia, with varying degrees of success. In the process, he spread not only the military wisdom of his army but also the cultural wisdom of Sumeria, the civilization that he conquered. Sargon ruled for 35 more years, until his death in 2305. But the fact is that he lived so long ago that most of what we know about him is based on legend.



### Why is it said that Hammurabi did something no one had done before?

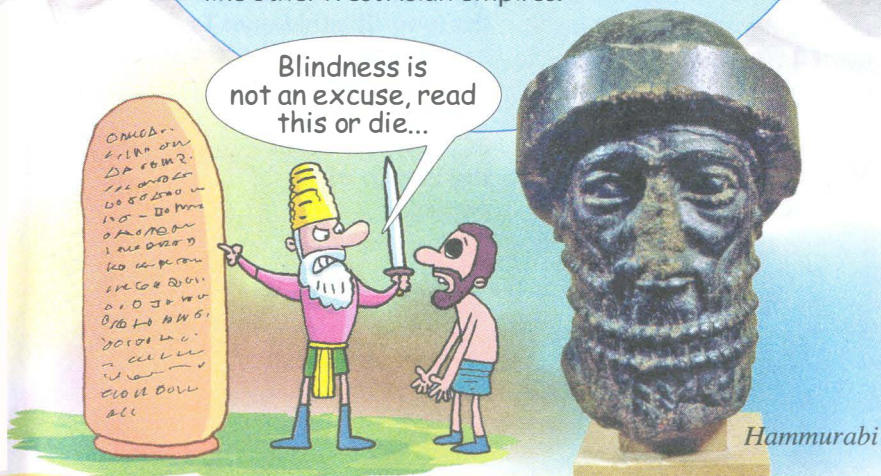
Hammurabi was an ancient Babylonian king.

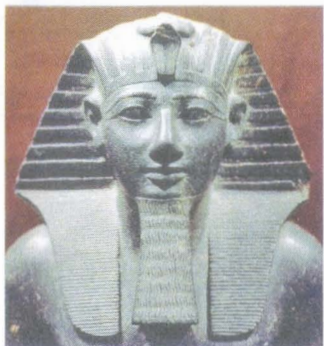
He was the sixth king of Babylon, but expanded it by uniting cities. He therefore became the first king of the empire. He first conquered cities towards the south, and then his conquest expanded. He respected all the religions in his empire, and did many things in order to make Babylon a better place.

Hammurabi is best remembered because he did something that no one had ever done before. Using a form of written language known as cuneiform, Hammurabi created the first written set of laws called the Code of Hammurabi. In Hammurabi's court, it did not matter if you were rich or poor. If you broke the law, and were found guilty, you would be punished. Since the laws were clearly written down, everyone was expected to obey them.

Under Hammurabi, the Babylonian Empire was very strong, but under his children and grandchildren, the empire got weaker, until eventually it collapsed like other West Asian empires.

Blindness is  
not an excuse, read  
this or die...





*Thutmose III*

### **Why is Thutmose III considered a great warrior pharaoh?**

Thutmose III was an Egyptian pharaoh who lived between 1479 and 1425 BC. He possessed all the qualities of a great ruler. A brilliant general who never lost a battle, he also excelled as an administra-

tor and statesman. He was an accomplished horseman, archer, athlete, and discriminating patron of the arts.

Thutmose III found himself faced with many enemies when he came

## **STAR FACT**

### **Luxor Temple and Amenhotep III**

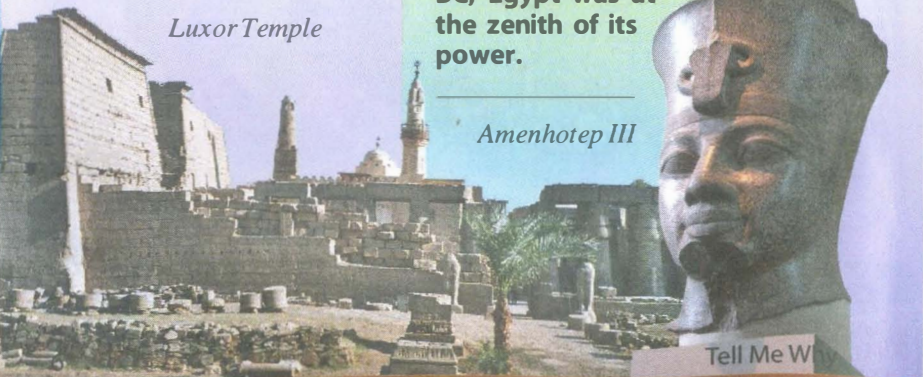
**Amenhotep III** was an Egyptian pharaoh who was a prolific builder and a benevolent ruler. His reign lasted almost 40 years, and was both stable and prosperous. He was a brilliant commander who led many campaigns. However, he is best known for the many splendid temples, including the magnificent Luxor Temple, and the large lifelike statues of himself that he built.

When he died in 1353

BC, Egypt was at the zenith of its power.

*Amenhotep III*

*Luxor Temple*



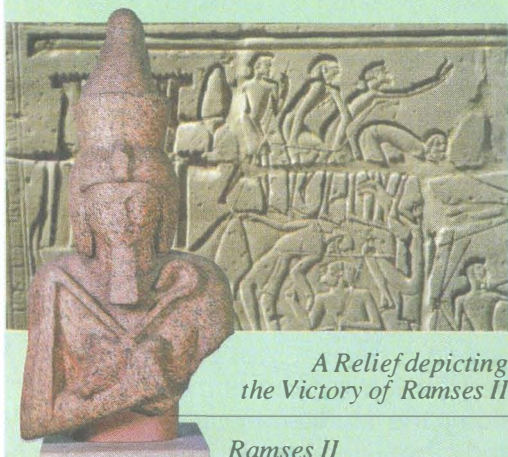
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to the throne. Undaunted, Thutmose immediately set out with his army, crossed the Sinai desert, and marched to the city of Gaza, which had remained loyal to Egypt. He quickly proved himself to be a military genius of his time. He understood the value of logistics, supply lines, the necessity of rapid movement, and sudden surprise attack. He led by example, and was also probably the first person in history to really utilize sea-power to support his campaigns.

Thutmose III emerged victorious in his battles, and conducted sixteen campaigns in Palestine, Syria, and Nubia. His treatment of the conquered was always humane. He is compared with Napoleon, but unlike Napoleon, he never lost a battle.

Ancient World's Commanders

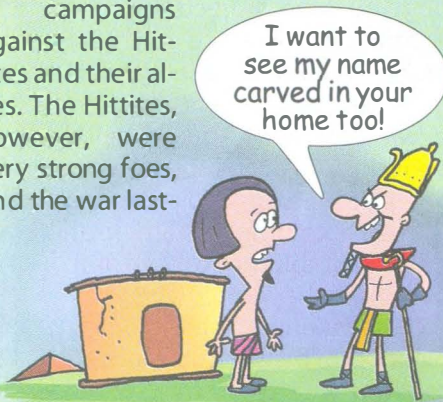


*A Relief depicting the Victory of Ramses II*

*Ramses II*

### **Why was Ramses II considered one of the most successful rulers of Ancient Egypt?**

Ramses II was an extraordinary ruler of Ancient Egypt. He ruled for 67 years, and lived to be over 90 years old. He was around 30 years of age when he became pharaoh, and in his fourth year as ruler, Ramses was fighting in Syria in a series of campaigns against the Hittites and their allies. The Hittites, however, were very strong foes, and the war last-



ed for twenty years. In the end, neithersidewasvictorious.Finally, after many years of war, Ramses was obliged to make a treaty with the prince of the Hittites. It was agreed that Egypt would not invadeHittiteterritory,andlikewise, the Hittites wouldn't invade Egyptian territory.

The military genius of Ramses II helped to secure Egypt's borders from foreign invaders, and pirates along the Mediterranean Coast and Libya. He also managed to fend off invasions from the Nubians. By forming peace treaties with these empires after warring with them, Ramses II helped to solidify Egypt's borders on all sides, allowing for increased internal stability.

Ramses II spent the rest of his life bolstering his image with huge building projects. His name is found everywhere on monuments and buildings in Egypt. His greatest works were the rock-hewn temples of Abu Simbel. He also added to the temple of Amenhotep III at Luxor, and completed the hall of columns at Karnak - still the largest columned room of any building in the world.

These monuments are a constant reminder of his great strength and wealth.

## STAR FACT

### Tiglath Pileser III

**Tiglath Pileser III was a capable king of Assyria, military leader, and the founder of the second Assyrian Empire. He is considered one of the most successful generals in military his-**

### What do we know about King Saul?

In the early days of their history, the Israelite tribes had lived in small, scattered, settlements. The first of the kings of Israel was Saul. He consolidated the tribes, and managed to defeat the

You are appointed as our David. Your main duty is to kill all demons!



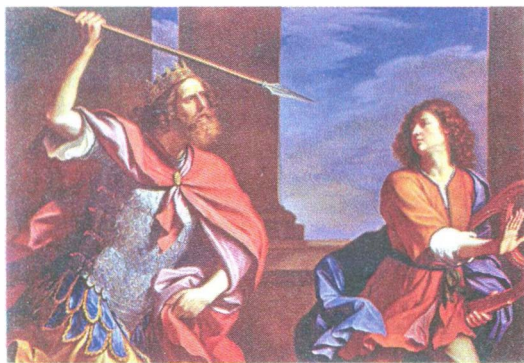
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tory, as well as an energetic and efficient ruler and reformer. Tiglath Pileser III conquered Syria and Palestine, and merged Babylonia with Assyria. He introduced the policy of transplanting subject populations- that is, the defeated people were moved away from their homeland and forced to settle in a new place.



*Tiglath Pileser III*



*Saul Attacking David - A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Painting*

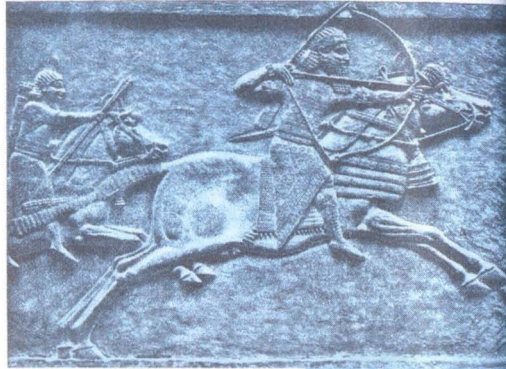
enemy of the Israelite tribes, the Philistines, in battle. The Philistines came back, and suggested that the battle should be resolved by a person to person combat. Saul appointed David, a young shepherd boy, while the Philistines were represented by a huge giant of a man called Goliath. Although they appeared unevenly matched, David killed Goliath with a well aimed stone from his slingshot, and the Philistines were once again defeated.

Sadly, Saul became jealous of David's popularity after this encounter, and tried to kill him. David escaped, and later joined the Philistines to meet the Israelites in battle. This time, the Philistines defeated the Israelites, and Saul was badly wounded by the archers as he tried to flee. He asked his armour bearer to kill him, but he refused, so Saul committed suicide by falling on his sword and the armour bearer followed him.

## **Why was Ashurbanipal considered to be the last great ruler of Assyria?**

Ashurbanipal was King of Assyria, and counted as the last great ruler of the country. When his father died, he left Ashurbanipal a kingdom that stretched from Northern Egypt to Persia, but he also made his brother king of Babylonia.

Throughout his reign, Ashurbanipal had military problems, mainly at the borders of the empire. He attacked Egypt, and campaigns in 667 and 664 BC led to the defeat of the Egyptians. The Assyrian army invaded Elam and Babylonia. Babylon was captured in 648 BC, and the following year, the Elamite city of Susa was destroyed.



*A Relief depicting  
Ashurbanipal  
Hunting*

Ashurbanipal is remembered as one of the most cultured rulers of the time. He supported the establishment of the first systematically organized library, which contained tens of thousands of works, in the shape of tablets. He was personally involved in the appointments of governors and prefects, and he functioned as the real general contractor when building state houses and structures.

After Ashurbanipal died in 631 BC, the Assyrian kingdom started to fall apart, but this is not considered to be his fault. It was not weakness inside Assyria, but continuous attacks from hostile neighbours, that brought it down.



## Why is Nebuchadnezzar assured of a place in history?

Nebuchadnezzar was the mighty king of the Babylonian Empire between 604 and 562 BC. In 597, Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem. He also defeated the Cimmerians and Scythians. He then put down a rebellion in Jerusalem, and took the inhabitants of Jerusalem as prisoners. He brought them to Babylon, and this period in Biblical history is referred to as the Babylonian captivity.

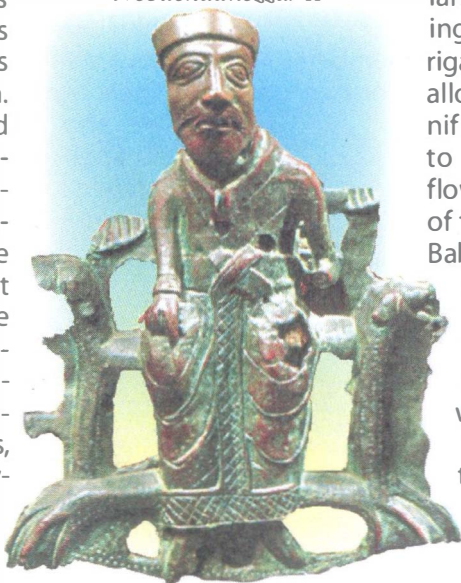
The evidence of Nebuchadnezzar's military successes is seen in his building works in Babylonia. All the great old cities were extensively rebuilt. Most notable was the development of Babylon. He restored old religious monuments, and improved canals, as other Babylonian kings had done. Nebuchadne-

zzar's building projects included surrounding his capital city with double wall 16 kilometres long, with an elaborate entry called the Ishtar Gate. He also built a port on the Persian Gulf.

Nebuchadnezzar will always be remembered for The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. According to accounts, the gardens were built to cheer up Nebuchadnezzar's homesick wife. The gardens did not actually 'hang,' but consisted of a series of terraces,

resting on pillars. They were ingeniously irrigated so as to allow the magnificent plants to grow and flower in spite of the fact that Babylon receives very little rain. Without doubt, they were his most spectacular contribution to posterity.

*Nebuchadnezzar II*

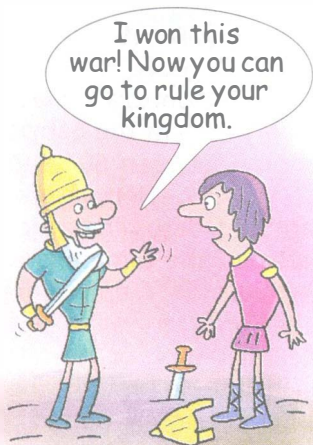


## Why is Cyrus the Great considered more than just an emperor?

Cyrus the Great was the man who created what we call the Persian Empire by conquering many neighbouring lands, and consolidating them all into one, with himself as emperor.

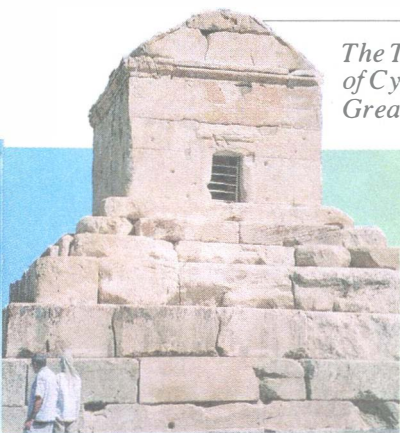
Although Cyrus's military accomplishments rank with those of Julius Caesar and Genghis Khan, he also was known as a master of diplomacy and tact. He welded together groups of people as widely different as Afghani tribesmen and Turkish farmers to create the first far-flung empire known in the Western world.

Cyrus is best remembered for his unprecedented tolerance towards



those he defeated. When he conquered Babylon, he did so to cheers from the Jewish community, who welcomed him as a liberator- he allowed the Jews to return to their own Promised Land. He also declared the first Charter of Human Rights known to mankind. He is reputed to have devised the first postal system.

*The Tomb of Cyrus the Great*



**“O man, I am Cyrus, son of Cambyses, Who founded the Empire of Persia and ruled over Asia. Do not grudge me my monument.”**

*The inscription over the tomb of Cyrus the Great.*



## Why was Darius a great commander?

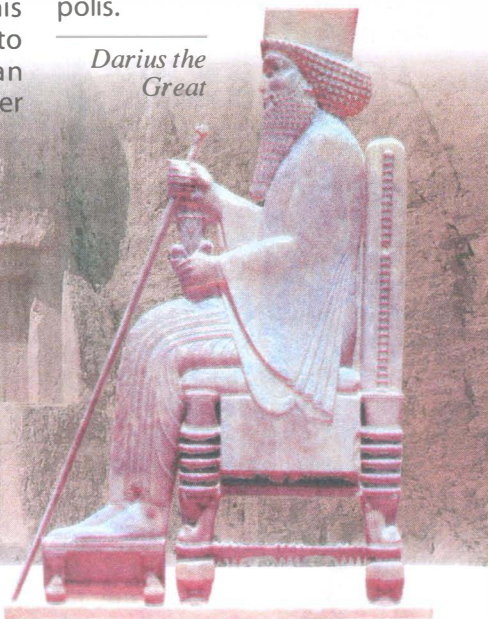
Darius the Great was a king of ancient Persia, whose reign lasted from BC 522 to 486. He took the throne by force, and continued the conquests of his predecessors, subduing Thrace, Macedonia, some Aegean Islands, and land stretching to the Indus valley. Darius put down several revolts, and he twice tried to conquer Greece, but a storm destroyed his fleet in 492 and the Athenians defeated him.

Though Darius was an excellent soldier, and extended his empire East, North, and into Europe, he saw himself as an organizer and lawgiver, rather

than as a mere conqueror. He divided the empire into 20 huge provinces called satrapies, each under a royally appointed governor called a satrap who had administrative, military, financial, and judicial control in his province. To check on such powerful subordinates, Darius also appointed the satrap's second-in-command, having him report to the king separately.

Darius also developed commerce, and was responsible for a huge building programme including a new capital at Persepolis.

*Darius the Great*



*The Tomb of Darius the Great*

## STAR FACT

### Miltiades

When the Persians threatened Athens, Miltiades, an Athenian general, was chosen as one of the ten generals of the Athenian land forces. In the summer of 490 BC, the Persians landed at Marathon. Miltiades waited for a favourable moment to attack, and when the Persian army was off guard, he struck. Charging one and a half kilometres across the Marathon plain, Miltiades' forces engaged the Persian infantry, killing some 6,400 men and capturing seven ships at a cost of only 192 Athenian dead. The rest of the Persian force quickly embarked, and put out to sea. Sadly, Miltiades was later accused of treason, and sentenced to death.



### Who wrote the book 'The Art of War'?

Hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, there was a period in China known as the Age of

Warring States. This was an age of great conflict and uncertainty, as seven states fought for survival and control of China. It was during this time that there arose a general from the state of Ch'i known as Sun Tzu. To hand down the wisdom he had gained from his years of battle, Sun Tzu wrote a book, The Art of War, which became a classic on military strategy in China. His book, which details a complete philosophy on how to decisively defeat one's opponent, has given guidance to military theorists and generals throughout the ages.

Widely regarded as 'the oldest military treatise in the



*'The Art of War' -  
in a Bamboo Book Format*

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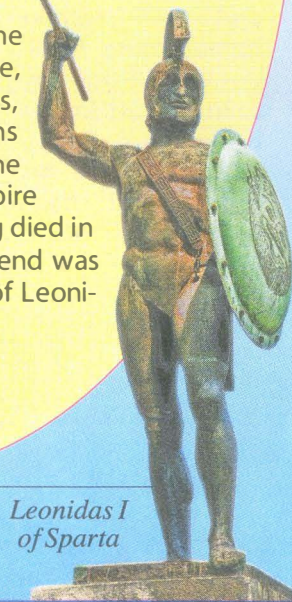
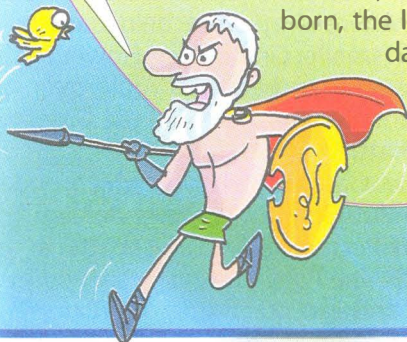


## Why was Leonidas, King of Sparta, famous?

Leonidas was a 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Spartan military king, who bravely led a small force of Greeks against a much larger Persian army during the Persian Wars. A vast army of Persians was on the march to conquer Greece. A small force of Greeks had been all that stood in their way. And yet, in a narrow pass at Thermopylae, the impossible almost happened. For three days, just over seventy-one hundred Greeks, spearheaded by an elite unit of three hundred Spartans, gave a savage beating to a Persian army that outnumbered them by perhaps 20-to-1.

Leonidas, commander in chief of the Greek resistance to Persia at Thermopylae, died in a heroic last stand. Led by Leonidas, the three hundred Spartans stood and fell, and took the pride of the Persian Empire down with them. A king died in this battle, but a legend was born, the legend of Leonidas.

I am born here to fight.



*Leonidas I of Sparta*

world', this compact little book, written more than 2,500 years ago, is still widely read today. American officers during World War II read it closely. The Japa-

nese army studied the work for decades, and many twentieth-century Chinese officers are said to have known the book by heart

# AMAZING

## The marathon

Haven't you heard of marathon, the cross-country race? Its story goes back to a great battle fought in Ancient Greece, in 490 BC. The Greeks won the battle of Marathon, and a young soldier named Pheidippides ran all the way to Athens, 40 km, to bring the happy news. He gave his report and then dropped dead. Marathon races commemorate this legendary race.



*Xerxes the Great*

**Why was Xerxes not able to realize his dream of conquering the Greeks?**

Xerxes was a King of the Persians who lived from 520 - 465 BC. When he came to the throne, he quelled a revolt

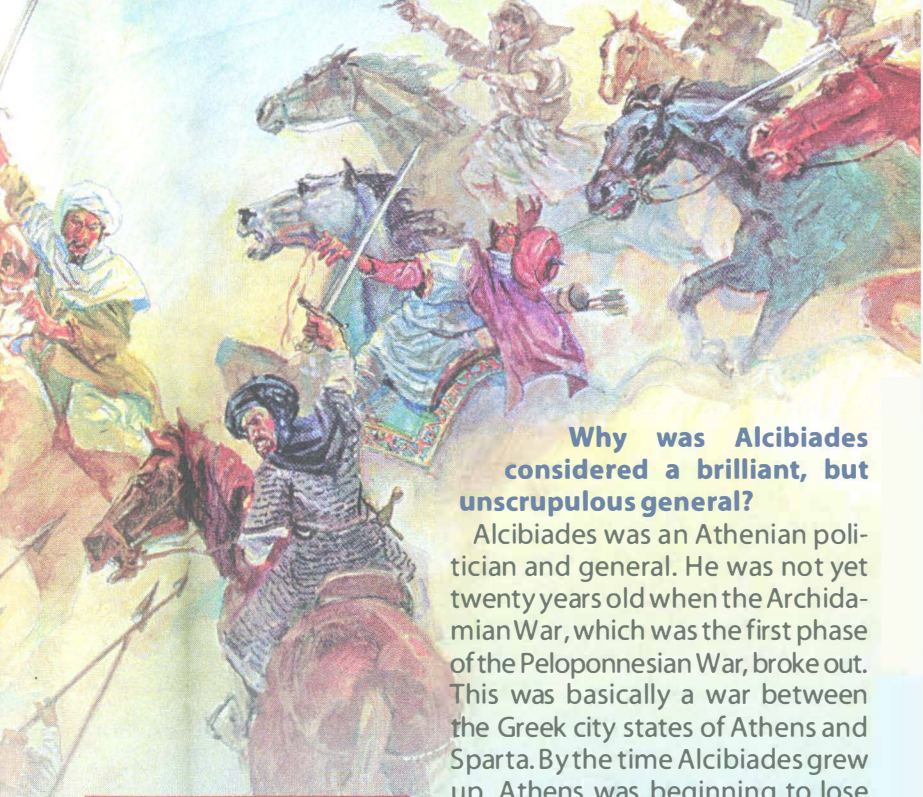
in Egypt, and then he decided to attack Greece. He moved his massive army and a fleet of ships by land and sea, with the fleet following the army, along the coast. The army had to go through a steep mountain pass called Thermopylae, where they were held back by a much smaller Greek force. However, the Persians found another route over the mountains, and defeated the Greeks in this battle.

It was a costly victory, which ended with 300 Spartan warriors defying the entire Persian army in a last battle to the death. The Persians finally reached Athens, and sacked the deserted city. But the invasion ended in disaster, when the Persian navy was routed by the Greek fleet at Salamis. Xerxes retreated to his palace in Persepolis, leaving behind an occupying army which was defeated by the Greeks.

Tell Me Why



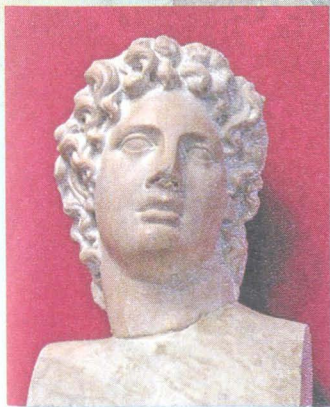




### **Why was Alcibiades considered a brilliant, but unscrupulous general?**

Alcibiades was an Athenian politician and general. He was not yet twenty years old when the Archidamian War, which was the first phase of the Peloponnesian War, broke out. This was basically a war between the Greek city states of Athens and Sparta. By the time Alcibiades grew up, Athens was beginning to lose the war. Even though he was a brilliant general, he fell out of favour, and was forced to flee Athens. He went to Sparta, and managed to turn the course of the war against his old city.

Eventually, however, he fell out of favour in Sparta as well, and was forced to flee again. He was welcomed back by the Athenian troops, and under his direction, the tide of war once again turned in favour of Athens, but only until Alcibiades was exiled for a second time. Athens eventually lost the war!



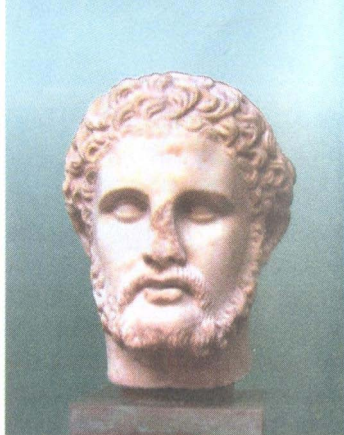
*Alcibiades*

## Who was Philip II?

Philip II was King of Macedonia. He ruled from 359 - 336 BC. When he came to power, Macedonia was in political and military turmoil, and Philip immediately set about bringing the people of Macedonia under his control.

Philip made several military innovations that helped make Macedonia a great power.

Philip's military zenith was at the battle at Chaeronea in August of 338 BC. Philip's army was greatly outnumbered by the Athenian and Theban forces, yet they overwhelmed the Athenians and Thebans. Athens and Thebes were forced to become subjects of Philip and Macedonia, leaving Sparta as the only Greek state not under Macedonian control.

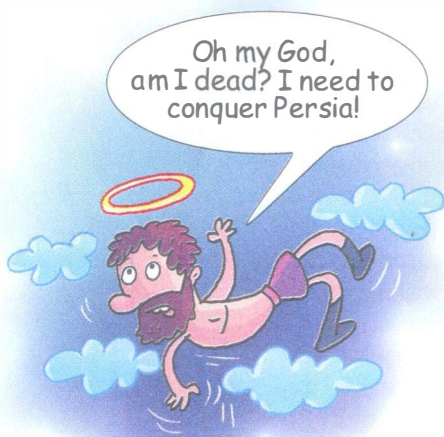


**“An army of deer led by a lion is more to be feared than an army of lions, led by a deer.”**

*Philip II of Macedonia*

Philip gave freedom and autonomy to all the Greek city states that he conquered, yet he established a network of bureaucracies that would be stable and loyal to him.

Then, with the support of all Greece, Philip declared war on Persia, and sent 10,000 troops into Asia Minor to begin liberating Greek cities along the coast. However, he died before he could achieve this dream, and it was left to his son Alexander the Great to realize it.





## Why was Alexander called 'the Great'?

Who has not heard of Alexander the Great? He was one of the most famous men in the history of the world. The son of King Philip II of Macedonia, Alexander grew up with a great respect for the Greeks and their culture. Alexander's father had conquered most of the Greek city-states before Alexander came to power, including the city-state of Sparta. When Alexander became king, even though he allowed the Greeks to manage their own city-states, they fought him at every turn. The Greeks lost, and Alexander brought all their outposts and colonies under his control as well. Alexander conquered other cultures in the Mediterranean rather



*Alexander the Great*

easily, including Egypt. Before his death, he had built over 70 cities, and had conquered the entire known world in the Mediterranean region. His empire stretched all the way to the Indus River.

Everywhere he went, Alexander introduced Greek literature, myth, dance, language, money, medicine, art, and theatre. He also allowed conquered people the opportunity to run their own country as long as they were loyal to Alexander. Did you know that Alexander never lost a battle? No wonder he was known as Alexander the Great!



### **Ptolemy I**

**Ptolemy was a Macedonian general under Alexander the Great and founder of the Ptolemaic dynasty of Egypt. This family of fifteen kings - all of whom were named Ptolemy - reigned over Egypt for more than three hundred years.**

## Why is Seleucus I also known as Nicator?

Seleucus I was a daring Macedonian general who aided Alexander's conquest of Persia and Northern India, and eventually united most of Alexander's Asian empire, except for Palestine, under his own rule. After Alexander's death, he became Governor of Babylonia, but was later forced to abandon Babylonia, and seek refuge with Ptolemy, Alexander's closest friend. However, he did manage to re-



*Seleucus I*

claim Babylon, and after the truce of 311 BC, Seleucus was left as master of most Asian provinces, with the notable exception of Phoenicia and



*Coins Issued by Antigonus*

## STAR FACT

### Killer Javelin

**Antigonus I Monophthalmus** was one of Alexander the Great's most im-

portant generals, and one of the most able of his successors. His surname means 'one eyed'. He came closer than any of his colleagues to reuniting Alexander's empire during the wars among Alexander's successors. Antigonus died in battle, after being struck by a javelin, in the eighty-first year of his life. He died during the first battle he ever lost.



Palestine, which Ptolemy had annexed.

In 305 BC, Seleucus took the title of King. Overcoming his enemies, he claimed all of Syria and the eastern provinces of Asia Minor. To solidify his control of the Mediterranean territories, he transferred his capital from Seleucia on the Tigris, to the new city of Antioch. For almost two decades after this, Seleucus was able to concentrate on consolidating his hold on his vast kingdom. He also launched an invasion of Europe, but was killed before he could return to his homeland. His ashes were enshrined by his son at Seleucia, where he was worshipped posthumously as Zeus Nicator, an incarnation of the head of the Greek pantheon.

Ancient World's Commanders

## Who founded the Mauryan Empire?

Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Maurya dynasty, which ruled Ancient India for about 140 years. His troops conquered one northern Indian kingdom after another, and claimed lands that stretched as far as west as Afghanistan. In this way, Chandragupta united Northern India under one ruler for the first time in history.

Before Chandragupta became a powerful emperor, North Western India

*A Symbolic  
Statue of young  
Chandragupta  
Maurya in the  
courtyard  
of the Indian  
Parliament*

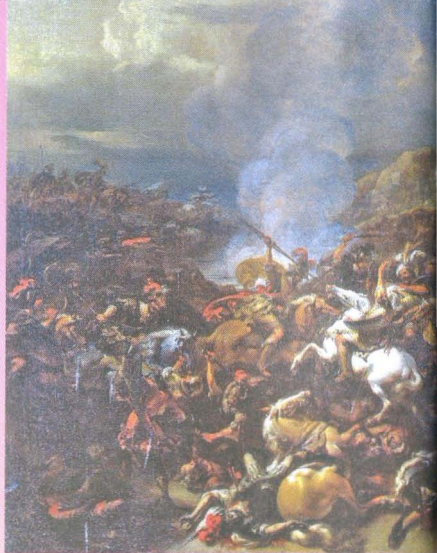


was mainly ruled by small regional kingdoms that were scattered here and there. Chandragupta's empire extended from Kashmir in the north, to the Deccan plateau in the south, and Assam in the east, to Afghanistan in the west. Such was the extent of his empire that not just India, but even the neighbouring lands of Afghanistan, Balochistan and Nepal were part of his kingdom.



*A Mauryan Ringstone*

Chandragupta Maurya's biggest achievements were defeating Alexander's army and taking over the Nanda Empire at the young age of just 20 years. It is believed that during the last days of his life, King Chandragupta Maurya gave up his throne, and adopted asceticism under the Jain saint, Bhadrabahu.

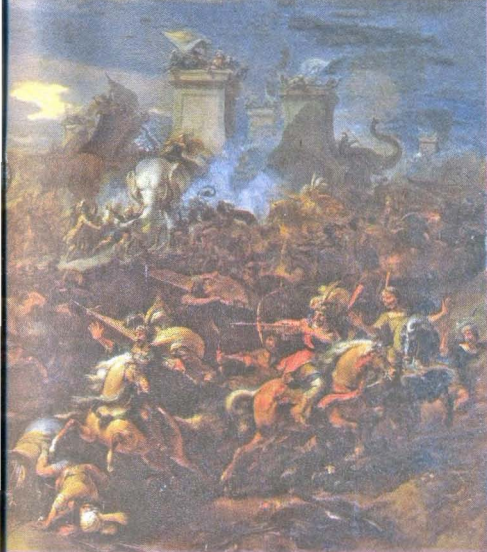


### **Why is King Porus greatly admired?**

King Porus was the King of Paurava, an ancient state within the territory of Punjab. Porus fought Alexander the Great in the Battle of the Hydaspes River in 326 BC. He brought war elephants with him that terrified the Greeks and their horses. However, during a thunderstorm, Alexander's troops crossed the Hydaspes, and the Indian chariots were unable to move through the rain-soaked mud.

Alexander managed to get the upper hand, and the Indian elephants stampeded their own troops. Nearly all of the In-





*Battle of the Hydaspes  
- A Painting*

dian cavalry were killed, though a few infantry men managed to flee. A wounded king Porus surrendered only after the destruction of his entire army. When Alexander asked him how he wanted to be treated, he gave the famous reply which has become classic: "As a king".

To this day, Porus' reply is considered to represent the height of diplomatic skill.

The proud manner in which the Indian leader accepted his defeat won Alexander's admiration, and Porus was reappointed as satrap of his own kingdom.

## STAR FACT

### Demetrius I

**D**emetrius I was the King of Macedon. The son of Antigonus I, he proved himself a very able commander in his father's wars, particularly against Ptolemy I. Though Ptolemy defeated him at Gaza in 312 BC, Demetrius was able to avenge his defeat



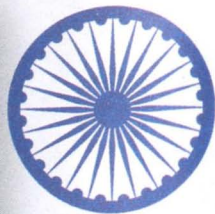
*Demetrius I*

later on. He defeated Ptolemy off Salamis, and took Cyprus. He besieged the city of Rhodes with great skill, and this earned him the name Poliorcetes or 'besieger of cities.' The siege ended with a compromise peace, with Rhodes agreeing to ally herself with Antigonus against anyone other than Ptolemy.

## Why is Emperor Ashoka considered one of the greatest of Indian rulers?

Emperor Ashoka was a ruler whose empire spread across the Indian subcontinent, covering most of India, South Asia, and beyond. It stretched from present day Afghanistan and parts of Persia in the west, to Bengal and Assam in the east, and Mysore in the south. The turning point in Ashoka's life occurred when he planned to seize the territory of Kalinga, the present day Orissa. He led a huge army, and fought a gruesome battle with the army of Kalinga. Though Ashoka finally emerged victorious at the end, the gruesome sights on the battlefield made his heart break with shame, guilt, and disgust. He vowed never to wage war again and sought refuge in the teachings of Lord Buddha.

Emperor Ashoka is known as Ashoka the Great, since he was one of the most able rulers who ruled India. Under his rule, the whole of India was united as one single entity with smooth administration. Ashoka was not just the first ruler to unify all of India - he was also the first Buddhist king who, after his conversion to Buddhism, attempted to embrace nonviolence and Buddhist principles as part of royal policies. Today, he is considered as one of great Indian Emperors.



*The  
Ashoka Chakra*

*The  
Ashoka Pillar*





## What is Ashoka's Imperial code of conduct?

Being a far-sighted ruler, Ashoka was aware that if good habits were to be inculcated in his subjects, he would have to interact with them at their mental level. He knew that high philosophical thoughts and teaching would not be effective, and so he formulated a 'code of conduct' for his subjects.



*The Lion Capital of Ashoka*

This code of conduct was known as the 'Dhamma', and was very broadly based, so as to include people of all religious denominations. In this code, Ashoka instructed people to follow the path of the Dhamma by doing maximum work for noble causes. He also urged his subjects to observe virtues such as respect for elders, following a path of non violence, and being tolerant of other people's beliefs and ideas. These rules were engraved on rocks and pillars erected throughout the country.

Ashoka emphasized that evils as rage, cruelty, anger, pride and envy are to be avoided, and virtues like kindness, liberty, truthfulness, gentleness, self-control and purity of heart, were to be pursued vigorously. Ashoka established hospitals for humans and animals, and made liberal donations to the brahmins and ascetics of different religious sects. He appointed special class of officials called dharmamahatras whose sole responsibility was to propagate the Dhamma among the people. Ashoka also sent missions to foreign countries to propagate the dhamma.

## Why was Quintas Fabius Maximus called 'the shield of Rome'?

Quintas Fabius Maximus was a Roman commander and politician during the Second Punic War. He knew from the reports of Roman commanders in the field that it would be difficult to defeat Rome's arch enemy Hannibal, in open battle. So, Fabius decided to fight a war of delaying tactics. He dispatched various Roman forces into the hills of Italy to tail Hannibal as closely as



possible, without engaging him in battle, knowing that the cavalry would be useless in the hills. These troops constantly cut off Hannibal's supply lines, and harassed him incessantly and without mercy. Although these tactics were unpopular, and viewed as cowardly, they worked. Fabius would make his first and only offensive move of the war in 209 during his fifth consulship, when he captured the city of Tarentum, which Hannibal had captured three years before.

Fabius' cautious delaying tactics won him the nickname *Cunctator*, meaning 'delayer'. He was also called 'the shield of Rome', because his tactics gave Rome time to recover its strength, and take the offensive against the invading Carthaginian army of Hannibal. Today, the word *Fabianism* has come to mean a gradual or cautious policy.

*Quintas  
Fabius Maximus*





### Why is Hamilcar Barca considered a fine general and statesman?

Hamilcar Barca was a daring, intelligent young Carthaginian general. He was assigned the command in Sicily in 247 in the First Punic War. From mountain bases he made repeated raids on the Romans. However, the Carthaginians were defeated, and Hamilcar Barca negotiated the terms of the peace that led to Carthage's withdrawal from Sicily. Later, the Carthaginian mercenaries revolted, but Hamilcar defeated them in 238. After that his popularity made him a virtual dictator. He then set out to conquer Spain as a new base against Rome, and had won considerable territory when he died. Hamilcar was probably the ablest general and states-



*Hamilcar Barca*

man that Carthage ever had, until he was succeeded by his son, Hannibal.

### Why was Qin Shi Huang called 'the wild beast of Qin'?

Qin Shi Huang was the First Emperor of a unified China, who ruled from 246 BC to 210 BC. He was only 13 years old when he took the throne, so his prime minister Lu Buwei acted as regent for the first eight years. When he took over the reins of power, Qin Shi Huang succeeded in defeating all the six other warring states. By doing so, Qin Shi Huang had unified Northern China. His army would continue to expand the Qin Empire's southern boundaries

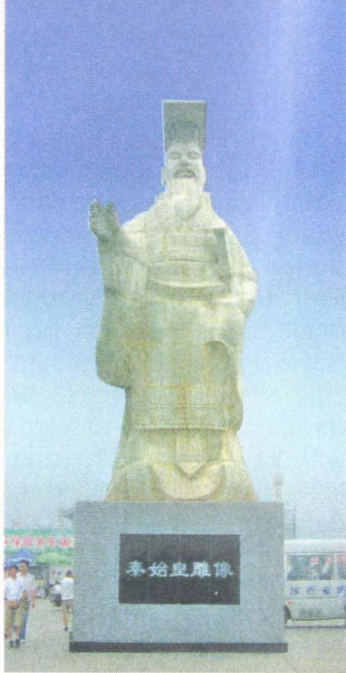


*Qin Shi Huang*

throughout his lifetime, driving as far south as what is now Vietnam.

The king of Qin became the Emperor of Qin China. As emperor, Qin Shi Huang reorganized the bureaucracy, abolishing the existing nobility, replacing them with his appointed officials. He also built a network of roads, with the capital of Xianyang at the hub. In addition, the emperor simplified the written Chinese script, standardized weights and measures, and minted new copper coins. Qin Shi Huang ordered the construction of an enormous defensive wall to keep out invaders from the north. This northern fortification formed the first section of what would become the Great Wall of China.

Did you know that Qin Shi Huang was often described as a wild beast, because he combined the prominent nose, large eyes and chest of a bird of prey, with the voice of a jackal, and the heart of a tiger?



*A Modern Statue of  
Qin Shi Huang*

**Why is Hannibal considered one of the greatest warriors of all time?**

By 264 BC, Rome was a force to be reckoned with. The only power in the region

### **Xiang Yu**

**Xiang Yu was the leader of uprisings in Ancient China, and a famous militarist. He was tall and strong, with great ambition even at a young age. During a peasant uprising, Xiang Yu killed a hundred guards by himself, showing his excellent martial skills. Later, he was gradually chosen as the leader of the risers. However, because of his headstrong attitude and arrogance, Xiang Yu lost the support of the common people. He committed suicide by the Wujiang River.**

that could match that of the Romans was Carthage. Hannibal was a young Carthaginian general who won most of his battles by coming up with clever ideas. Once, while fighting at sea, Hannibal had his men dump barrels full of live snakes onto the deck of an enemy ship. The enemy had not expected Hannibal to do this. They weren't prepared to fight snakes. Hannibal won that battle easily.

In 221 BC, Hannibal tried to attack Rome. Hannibal's plan was to march 90,000 foot soldiers, 12,000 cavalry, and 37 elephants from Spain, through Gaul, over the Alps, into Italy, and then

*Hannibal and his troops crossing the Alps- A Painting*



Don't be afraid friends, you are my weapons for today!



take Rome by force.

His plan did not work as expected. The route was more rugged than he had expected. He lost nearly all his elephants and half his men on the trip. So, Hannibal came up with a new plan. Instead of marching on Rome, he drove Rome crazy by attacking smaller outposts and stealing food and weapons, intended for Rome. Hannibal and his men stayed on the Italian peninsula for 15 years, causing trouble wherever he could.





**“It is difficult for a man to whom fortune has never proved false to reflect upon its uncertainties.”**

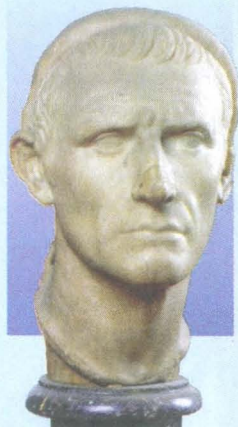
*Hannibal*

In 203 BC, Rome attacked Carthage while Hannibal was away. Before Hannibal could arrive, Carthage had agreed to peace terms with Rome. That did not stop Hannibal, though. He spent the rest of his life fighting the growing power of Ancient Rome. To this day, Hannibal ranks as one of the most magnificent military minds in the history of the world.

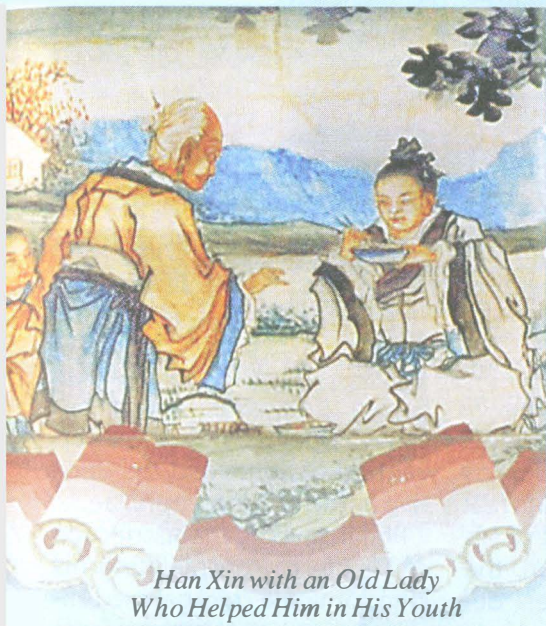
## **Why is Antiochus III considered a great king of Seleucia?**

Antiochus III was barely 19 when he became King of Seleucia. By a show of force, and skilful diplomacy, he formed alliances with neighbouring rulers. Once he had his neighbours under his control, Antiochus then turned his attention to Western territories and formed an alliance with Philip V of Macedon against Egypt. In 200 BC, he defeated the Egyptian forces, and claimed control of Palestine and Phoenicia.

Pressing his military advantage, Antiochus invaded Egypt itself, forcing a peace treaty. But Antiochus did not rest on that victory. He later led his forces to regain the cities of Western Asia Minor that his father had lost. Not content with having extended Seleucia's control over more territory than any of his predecessors, he crossed into Europe, but was defeated by the Romans and the allies.



*Antiochus III*



*Han Xin with an Old Lady  
Who Helped Him in His Youth*

### **Why is Han Xin considered the most famous general in the Han dynasty?**

Han Xin was a very famous general who lived around two centuries before Christ at a time when China's first empire, Qin, was on the verge of collapsing, because of peasant uprisings. He came from a poor family, but he studied hard and became familiar with military strategy and tactics. In 209 BC, rebellions broke out everywhere in China. Han Xin went to join the rebel army of Xiang Liang, who founded the nation of West Chu. After Xiang Liang was killed in a battle, his nephew Xiang Yu became the ruler of West Chu. However,

Han Xin felt he was not being treated well, and left Xiang Liang's army to join another rebel army called Han under Lord Liu Bang. It was here that Han Xin soon proved that he had a rare military talent.

In May of 206 BC, the Han army won a major victory against Lord Zhang Han's army. This was followed by a series of victories. What is amazing is that Han Xin started as a lowly guard for Xiang Liang, and became a general under Liu Bang. Moreover, he achieved outstanding victories repeatedly within just a few years. He was the major figure in deciding the outcome of the war between Han and its enemies, and was praised as an all-powerful military leader and brilliant strategist.

### How did Philip V become King of Macedonia?

Philip V was one of the last great Macedonian sovereigns ruling from 221 to 179, whose attempt to extend Macedonian influence throughout Greece, resulted in his defeat by Rome.

Philip became king when his father died in 229 BC. He was just nine years old then, and real power lay in the hands of his cousin, Antigonus Doson, the regent. Antigonus later declared himself to be the king but he died when Philip was just seventeen. So in effect, Philip became king only in 221.

Philip's reign witnessed an expansion of Macedonian



*Philip V*

power, but it also saw an even greater expansion of the power of Rome. During his reign he was preoccupied with the vain struggle to maintain the old Macedonian supremacy in the

Balkan Peninsula, which became hopeless after the intervention of Rome and the decisive Battle of Cynoscephalae.

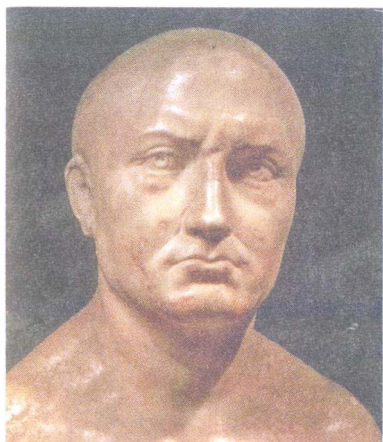
Philip devoted the last decade of his life to consolidating his kingdom. He reorganized finances, transplanted populations, reopened mines, and issued central and local currencies. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Perseus who ruled as the last king of Macedon.

### Why was Publius Cornelius Scipio called 'Africanus'?

Publius Cornelius Scipio was born into one of the great aristocratic families of Rome. Even as a boy, he proved his bravery when, seeing his father wounded and cut off by the enemy during a battle, he charged forward, and

saved him. Scipio began his career as a military tribune. In 210, the Romans decided to send an army to Spain against the Carthaginians, but it is said that no senior general would undertake the task, and that young Scipio offered himself as a candidate. He was determined to





*Publius Cornelius Scipio*

hold the Carthaginian armies at bay, and prevent them from sending reinforcements to Hannibal in Italy. He was also determined to turn back the tide of war, and to drive the enemy out of the peninsula.

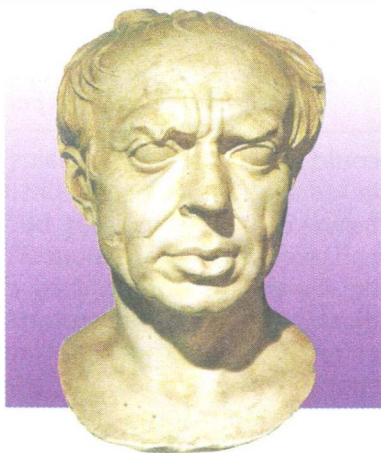
Scipio first defeated the Carthaginian commander Hasdrubal Barca in Spain, and then the other two Carthaginian armies still there, making Roman control of Spain complete. However, his greatest achievement was undoubtedly his victory over the Carthaginian leader Hannibal in the great Battle of Zama in Africa, in 202 BC, ending the Second Punic War. For this he won the surname Africanus.

Ancient World's Commanders

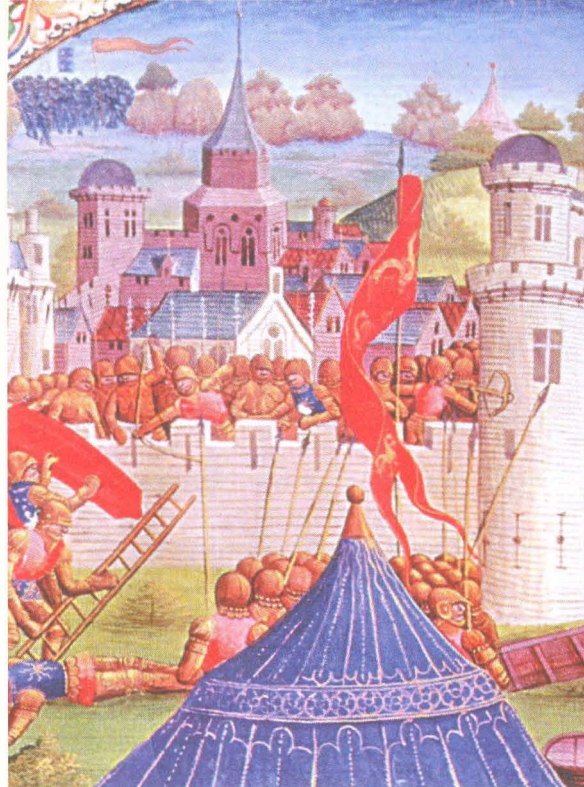
### **Why is it said that Gaius Marius transformed the Roman army?**

Gaius Marius was a Roman general and politician. He was a strong and brave soldier, and a skilful general, popular with his troops, but he showed little flair for politics, and was not a good public speaker.

Gaius was given command of the Roman army in Africa. In recruiting fresh troops, Marius broke with custom, because of a manpower shortage. He recruited volunteers from outside the propertied classes. This was a bold step because till then, only those who owned property



*Gaius Marius*



*The Defence of Carthage, in which Hasdrubal Barca, took part.*

could serve in the army. Gaius' victory in Africa got him elected consul again- he was consul seven times- but he soon had to go to war once more. This time, he showed his foresight by ensuring that his men were excellently trained in commando tactics by gladiatorial instructors. There is no doubt that Gaius' military reforms and great command led to the growing involvement of the army in politics, and the eventual collapse of the republican system.

## STAR FACT

### **Hasdrubal Barca**

**Hasdrubal Barca**, brother of Hannibal, was the commander of the Carthaginian Empire in Spain during the Second Punic War. When Rome turned its efforts to attacking Carthage's empire in Spain, in order to prevent reinforcements from getting to Hannibal in Italy, Hasdrubal was involved in all the battles. In 207 BC, he crossed the Alps with reinforcements for Hannibal. However, his army was defeated, and Hasdrubal himself was killed. The defeat of Hasdrubal is often considered the decisive loss for Carthage in the war.

## What do we know about Cornelius Sulla?

Cornelius Sulla came to prominence mainly in the Social War, that was fought from 91-89 BC. When in 88 BC, Mithridates, King of Pontus, attacked the Roman province in Asia, the senate decided that Sulla, who was then one of the current consuls, would be commander of the army against Mithridates. After successfully completing his campaign against Mithridates, Sulla returned to Italy, marched to Rome, and took charge politically by force, as a dictator.

Sulla introduced a new judicial device called 'proscription'. This meant, the publication of lists of any peo-

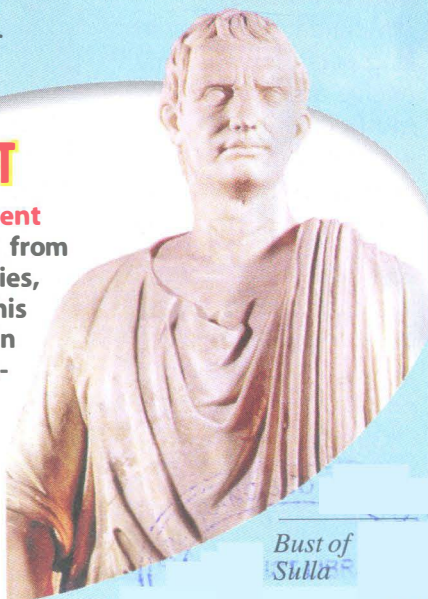
ple he deemed undesirable. Rewards would be made to those who brought them in, be they dead or alive. It goes without saying that Sulla used this device in order to wipe out any political opposition. He introduced a law by which, any new member to be admitted to the Senate had to have at least to have had some experience in an official position. Sulla created new courts for particular types of crime. Only Senators could sit as judges, and this strengthened the Senate. Unusually for a tyrant, Sulla retired in 79 BC.

### STAR FACT

#### Active Retirement

After withdrawing from active political activities, Sulla started to write his memoirs, which he finished in 78 BC. He died soon after. History says that Sulla died from liver failure, or a gastric ulcer.

His epitaph read, 'No friend ever served me, and no enemy ever wronged me, whom I have not repaid in full'.



Bust of  
Sulla





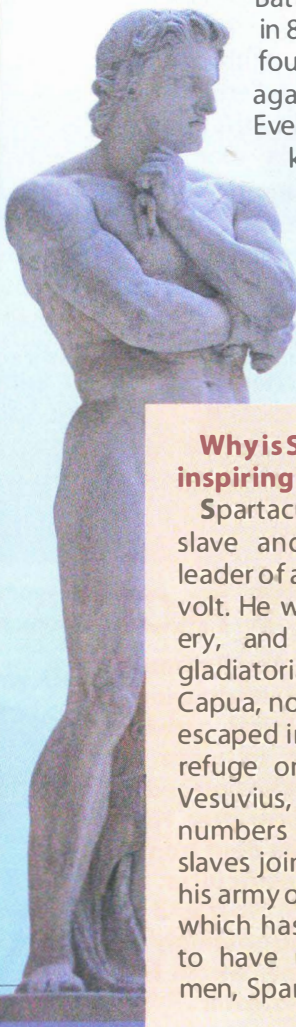
*Mithridates VI*

### **How did Mithridates VI Eupator seize control of the kingdom of Pontus?**

Mithridates became king when he was only twelve, and so, it was his mother who actually wielded power. However, when he was seventeen, he had his mother imprisoned, and seized power. He also killed off several of his brothers to eliminate any competition for the throne!

Mithridates invaded Bithynia, which was a Roman ally, and this

*Spartacus*



brought him into conflict with Rome. Later, Roman general Sulla captured Athens, and defeated Mithridates at the

Battle of Chaeronea in 86 BC. Mithridates fought three wars against the Romans. Eventually, he lost his kingdom, and died after being overthrown by one of his sons.

Today, Mithridates VI is remembered as

### **Why is Spartacus' life an inspiring one?**

Spartacus was a Roman slave and gladiator, and leader of a famous slave revolt. He was sold into slavery, and trained at the gladiatorial school in Capua, north of Naples. He escaped in 73 BC, and took refuge on nearby Mount Vesuvius, where large numbers of other escaped slaves joined him. Leading his army of runaway slaves, which has been estimated to have reached 100,000 men, Spartacus defeated a

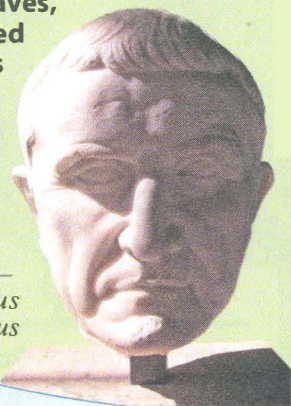
## STAR FACT

### Golden Death

**Marcus Lucinius Crassus** was a Roman general and statesman who became one of the richest men in Rome. He gained his wealth by selling slaves, and buying up the properties of those killed by the Roman dictator Sulla. He used his wealth to buy power and influence—and finally, it is believed that, he died by having molten gold poured down his throat by his enemies to quench his thirst for gold!

one of the Roman Republic's most persistent enemies, though he won only one major battle.

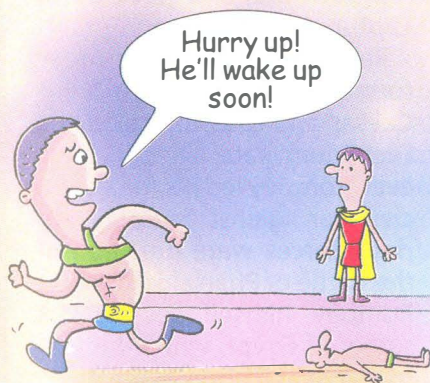
*Marcus Lucinius Crassus*



series of Roman attacks using tactics which would now be called guerrilla warfare.

In 72 BC, Spartacus and his army marched north towards

Gaul. They fought off a series of attacks from Roman forces, but then turned south. The Roman politician and general Marcus Licinius Crassus led an army south, and in the battle that followed, Spartacus is believed to have been killed. Around 6,000 of his followers, who escaped, were hunted down and crucified. Thousands of others were killed by the army of the Roman general Pompey. Though his attempt to win freedom failed, Spartacus's struggle has been an inspiration to revolutionaries, politicians, and writers to this day.







*Bust of  
Pompey*



*Flight of Pompey - A Painting*

### **Why is Gnaeus Pompey the Great considered a key figure in Roman history?**

Gnaeus Pompey was one of the key figures in the Roman revolution at the end of the period known as the Roman Republic. He rose to prominence serving Sulla in the first major Roman civil war, defeating the forces of Marius in Africa. Pompey quickly learned the political power of an army behind him. He led the Roman army against the rebels in Spain, and returned to Rome in triumph.

In addition to his early successes, brutal though they are said to have been, Pompey was responsible for subduing the rebellious Spartacus and his army of slaves. This earned him

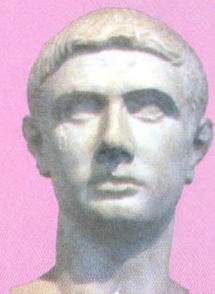
the enmity of Crassus, who had already put down the main force of the slave revolt, that had terrorized Italy. Pompey was awarded the task of ridding the pirates from the Mediterranean. He conquered Mithridates, King of Pontus, Tigranes, King of Armenia, and Antiochus, King of Syria, and went on to capture Jerusalem.

Returning to Rome, Pompey formed a coalition with Julius Caesar and Crassus, called the First Triumvirate. Later on, however, Pompey led his forces in a civil war against Caesar. Pompey's forces were defeated at the Battle of Pharsalus in 48 BC. Pompey himself sought the safety of Egypt, where he was murdered by order of the pharaoh's ministers.



## STAR FACT Brutus

**Marcus Brutus** was one of Julius Caesar's closest friends. He was a Roman Republican, general and statesman, and Caesar had appointed him governor of Gaul. Yet, he was one of the assassins who murdered Caesar, for what he believed was the good of Rome.

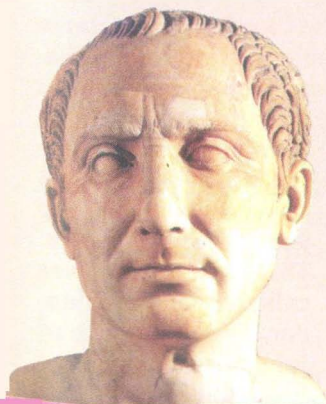


*Marble Bust of Brutus*

## Why is Julius Caesar considered one of the greatest figures in history?

In 60 BC, a young and ambitious general by the name of Julius Caesar stepped into political life. He had been very successful on the battlefield, and had greatly expanded Rome's borders, bringing

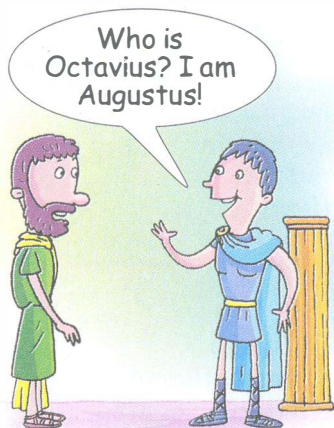
*Julius Caesar*



parts of Gaul and Britain under the control of Rome. He conquered enemies in Spain and Germany, and passed on to Greece. Caesar marched into Egypt also, where he notched up another victory.

However, these victories made the Roman Senate fear that Caesar would use his army to overthrow the republican government. In an attempt to protect this from happening, the Senate ordered Julius Caesar to return to Rome, but to leave his armies north of the Rubicon River.

Caesar refused to do as he had been ordered. By crossing the Rubicon with his armies, he committed treason against the Senate, and in effect, declared civil war. Caesar eventually defeated opposing forces, and by 45 BC, had taken over control of the entire Roman Empire. Sadly, Caesar's rule in Rome would be brief. The following year, in 44 BC, he was murdered by members of the Senate.



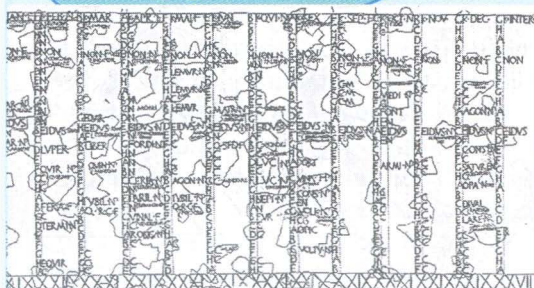
### How did Gaius Octavius become Augustus, the ruler of Rome?

Augustus Caesar's real name was Gaius Octavius. He was the grand nephew of Julius Caesar. In his will, Caesar had adopted Octavius and made him his heir,

so Octavius changed his name to Gaius Julius Caesar. Octavian was a shrewd, brilliant, and astute politician. Upon his grand-uncle's assassination in 44 BC, Octavius went to Rome. There, on August 19<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 19, Octavius was elected Consul.

In November, Octavius, Mark Antony, and Aemilius Lepidus formed the Second Triumvirate and forced the Senate to grant all three of them consular power for five years. Later, Antony left for Egypt, where he married the Queen Cleopatra, even though he was still married to Octavius's sister in Rome. This outraged Octavius. He had already seized power from Lepidus, and he now defeated Antony and Cleopatra in a sea battle.

### STAR FACT



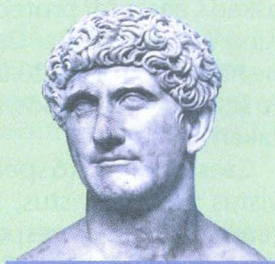
*Roman Calendar-Before the Julian Reform*

### Roman Calendar

One of Julius Caesar's important reforms was the revision of the Roman calendar. He established the 365 day year, with a leap year every 4 years. This calendar was called the Julian calendar, and the month of July was named after Julius Caesar.

## Mark Antony

**Mark Antony** was a Roman statesman and general. After Caesar defeated Pompey, Antony became Caesar's second in command, and Caesar appointed him as Consul of Rome. On Caesar's death, Antony joined with Caesar's nephew Octavian to defeat the conspirators who had murdered Caesar. Later however, Octavian became his enemy when Antony married Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. Octavian sent a fleet that destroyed the navy of Antony and



*Mark Antony*

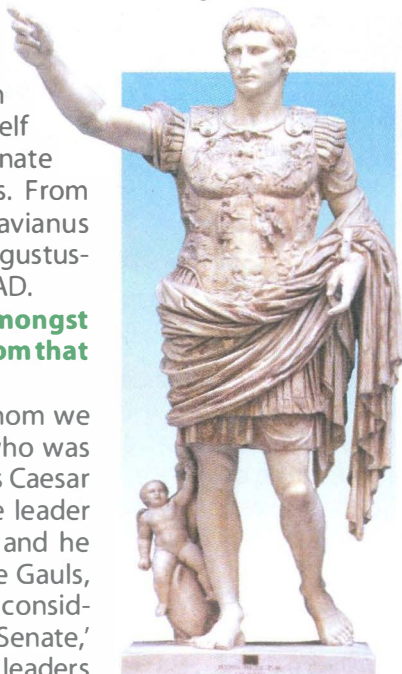
**Cleopatra, and Antony committed suicide.**

The world over which Rome presided was now in chaos. To meet this challenge, Octavian strengthened the military. From 31-23 BC, Octavian had himself elected Consul. In 27 BC, the Senate gave him the title of Augustus. From then on, Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus - also known as the Emperor Augustus - ruled Rome until his death in 14 AD.

**Why did Ariovistus's status amongst the Ancient Romans change from that of a friend to an enemy?**

The first German leader of whom we have any record is Ariovistus, who was reigning in 58 BC, the year Julius Caesar entered Gaul. Ariovistus was the leader of a Germanic tribe, the Suebi, and he was constantly fighting with the Gauls, whom he defeated. The Romans considered him a 'king and friend of the Senate,' but things changed when Gaul's leaders

*Augustus Caesar*





asked Caesar for protection against King Ariovistus. The Gauls claimed he had brought in 120,000 Germans to settle on their lands, and had also taken hostages.

Caesar agreed to speak with Ariovistus but Ariovistus, refused this request. Caesar's response was to tell him not to bring Germans into Gaul, and to restore hostages taken. However, Ariovistus, who had en-



*The Defeat of Ariovistus by the Romans in 58 BC*

joyed military successes as impressive as Caesar's, saw no reason to obey. Finally, Caesar attacked him at the Battle of Vosges in 58 BC. The Germans responded with vigour, but Roman tactics soon led to panic among them. As they fled, Caesar led the pursuit. Ariovistus managed to escape, but died not long afterwards.

*Statue of Arminius*

### **Arminius**

**Arminius** was a German leader who lived in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. He had lived in Rome for sometime, and understood Rome's military strategy. When the Romans invaded German territory, Arminius, along with the leaders of the other German tribes, used this knowledge to defeat the Romans at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest.

## STAR FACT

### Orodes II

Orodes II was King of Parthia. He had helped his brother Mithradates III murder their father. When Mithradates occupied Seleucia and Babylon, Orodes stormed those towns, immediately executing his brother, and seizing total power. Orodes ruled from 57 to 38 BC.

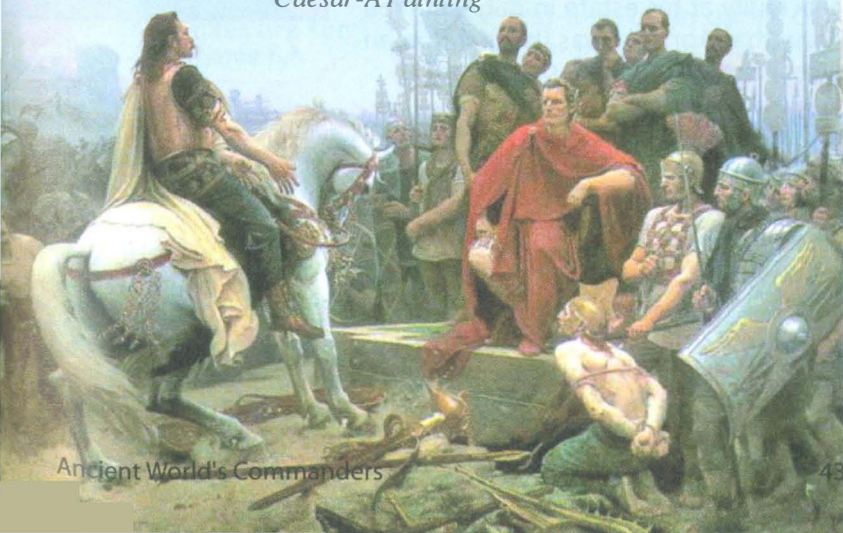
### Why is Vercingetorix so famous?

Vercingetorix was a Gallic leader. In fact, he was the best known, and most, able leader of the Gallic opposition to Caesar during the Gallic War of 58 -51 BC. Vercingetorix became the leader of the great revolt against the Romans in 52 BC.

Julius Caesar, upon hearing of the revolt, rushed to put it down. Vercingetorix adopted the policy of retreating to heavy, natural fortifications, and burning Gallic towns to

keep the Roman soldiers from living off the land. Caesar and his chief lieutenant Labienus lost minor engagements, but when Vercingetorix shut himself up in Alesia and summoned all his Gallic allies to attack the besieging Romans, the true brilliance of Caesar appeared. He defeated the Gallic relieving force, and took the fortress. Vercingetorix was captured, and put to death.

*Vercingetorix Surrenders to Julius Caesar-A Painting*



## Why is the Roman commander Gnaeus Julius Agricola associated with Ancient Britain?

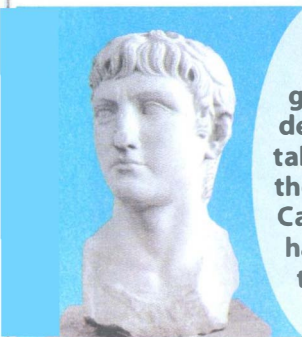
Gnaeus Julius Agricola was a Roman statesman and soldier. He became governor of Britain, and conquered large areas of Northern England, Scotland and Wales. Agricola began his career as a military tribune. Later, he commanded a Roman legion in Britain, and in 78 AD, he was made governor of Britain.

Agricola was successful in establishing Roman authority in North Wales. He then moved to Scotland, where he consolidated Roman military control and masterminded the building of a string of forts across the country from west to east. He confronted the Caledonian tribes under Calgacus at the Battle of Mons Graupius in 84 AD.

Agricola was a successful soldier, and a political leader in Britain. Agricola died peacefully at his estate in Italy. Did you know that Agricola was the first Roman to realize that Britain was an island?



*A Statue of Agricola*



## Germanicus Julius Caesar

**Germanicus was a popular imperial Roman general. He stifled a rebellion in the west on the death of Augustus in AD 14. Though urged to take imperial power, he deferred to Tiberius. In the East, he came into conflict with Gnaeus Calpurnius Piso, governor of Syria. His death may have been due to poisoning ordered by Piso, though Tiberius was also suspected. He was immensely popular among the citizens of Rome.**

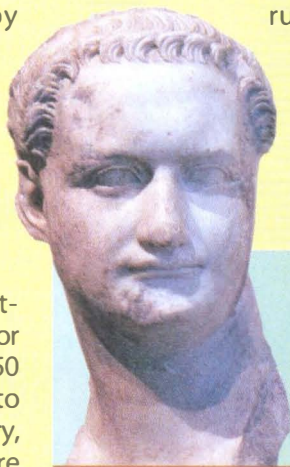


## What is the Emperor Domitian's place in Roman history?

Domitian was confirmed as emperor by the Roman Senate on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 81 AD. During the preceding twenty years, Rome had experienced two great fires, and a civil war. Domitian responded by erecting, restoring, or completing some 50 structures. In order to facilitate this recovery, the provinces were

taxed more heavily. While Domitian raised taxes in most parts of the Empire, he also took aggressive steps to eliminate corruption and mismanagement.

Rome was not seriously threatened by its enemies during Domitian's reign. In 88-89 CE,

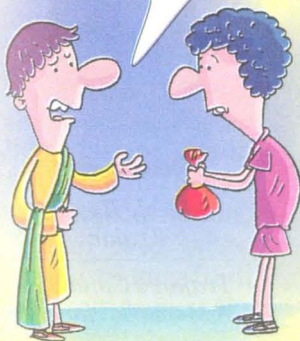


*A Bust of Domitian*



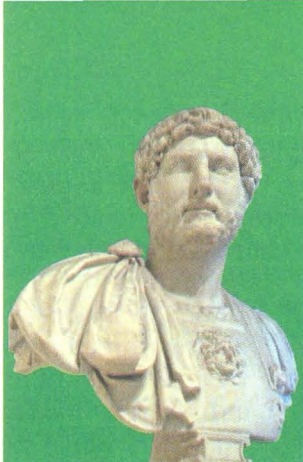
*A Small Silver Coin of Domitian*

Why do you hesitate?  
Higher taxes are for your safety!



there was a revolt in upper Germany. Domitian had the revolt quickly crushed, by using the legions of lower Germany.

By the latter part of his reign, the Emperor had taken almost all power away from the Roman Senate. He became increasingly paranoid of plots and plans to remove him. In 96 AD, a real plot against Domitian finally did succeed. He died at age forty-four, and was the last emperor of his dynasty - the Flavian dynasty.



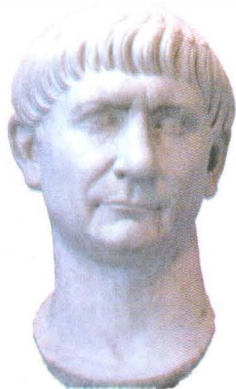
## STAR FACT

### Hadrian

**H**adrian was a Roman emperor known for his many building projects. Hadrian spent most of his period in office travelling all over the empire. He is most famous for the wall that he built across Britain, from Tyne to Solway, designed to keep the barbarians out of Roman Britain. Hadrian was a capable administrator and a good soldier and leader, and is known as one of the 'five good emperors' of Rome.

## Why was Emperor Trajan greatly loved by the people of Rome?

Trajan was a soldier who spent most of his life involved in campaigns. He was adopted by the Roman Emperor Nerva, but even after Nerva died, Trajan remained in Germany until he had completed his campaign. Trajan's eventual entry into Rome in AD 99 was a triumphant one. Jubilant crowds rejoiced at his arrival. The new emperor entered the city on foot. He embraced each of the Senators, and even walked among the ordinary people.



*Marble Bust of Trajan*

*Trajan's Column - A Memorial for Trajan's Victory*

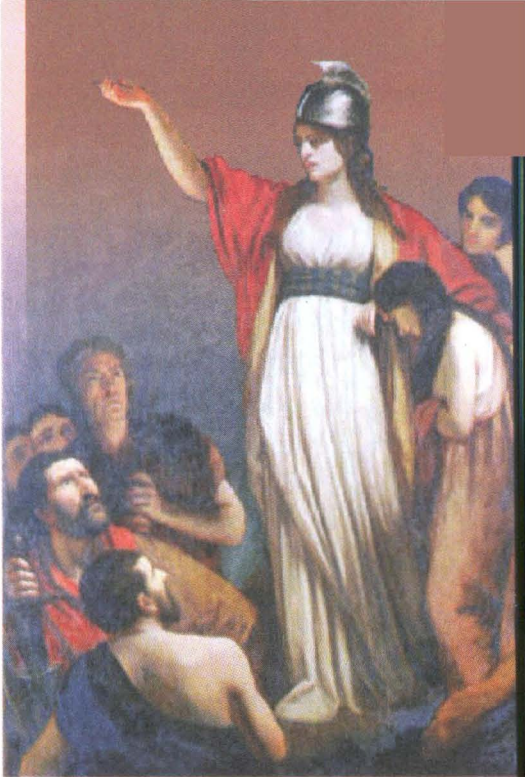
Tell Me Why

Under Trajan, the programme of public works was enlarged substantially. The road network in Italy was renovated, and many bridges were built. Also provisions for the poor were also made, especially for children. Trajan was a brilliant general, as shown by his military achievements. Quite naturally, he was very popular with his troops, especially due to his willingness to share in the hardships of his soldiers.

Trajan's most famous campaign is undoubtedly that against Dacia, a powerful kingdom north of the Danube in modern Romania. Two wars were fought against it, resulting in its destruction and annexation as a Roman province in AD 106. He annexed Armenia, and spectacularly conquered the whole of Mesopotamia, including the Parthian capital Ctesiphon.

Trajan died while returning to Italy from the east on 9<sup>th</sup> August AD 117, after suffering a stroke.

Ancient World's Commanders



*Queen Boudicca- A Painting*

### **Why is Boudicca an example of woman power?**

Boudicca was queen of the Iceni people of Eastern England. Her husband had been ruler of the Iceni. The Romans had allowed him to continue to rule over his people, even though they had defeated him in battle. However, when he died, the Romans took over his lands, and stripped and flogged Boudicca. This led to widespread fury and resentment against the



Romans. The Iceni, led by Boudicca who herself was a ferocious and skilled warrior, rebelled, and they were joined by other tribes too.

Boudicca's army successfully defeated the Roman Ninth Legion, and destroyed the capital of Roman Britain, then at Colchester. They went on to destroy London and Verulamium. Boudicca was eventually defeated by the Romans, but she killed herself, rather than be captured.

She has been described as one of the most intelligent women of her day. Tall, and slim, with waist length long red hair, she was an imposing figure who continues to inspire women throughout the centuries.



*Decebalus*

### **How did Decebalus get his name?**

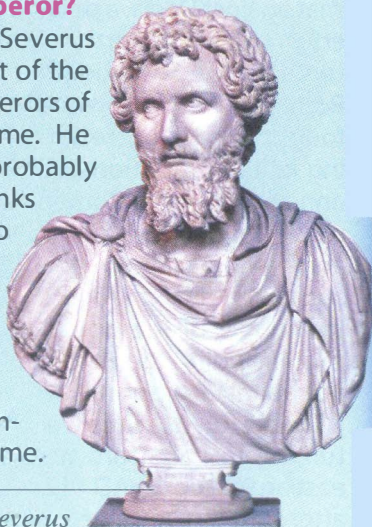
Decebalus was King of Dacia, which is today known as Romania. His name means 'the brave one'. He was called by this name because he proved to be a formidable op-

ponent to Rome for over 20 years.

Decebalus ruled the Dacians between 87 and 106, and is famous for fighting three wars against the Roman Empire,

### **Why is Septimus Severus called a soldier emperor?**

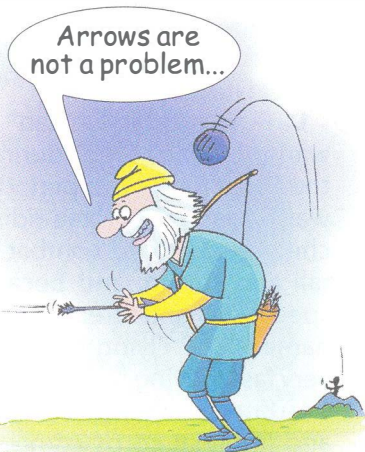
Septimus Severus was the first of the soldier emperors of Ancient Rome. He rose improbably from the ranks of soldiers to become a military reformer. He was the first of the Severan emperors of Rome.



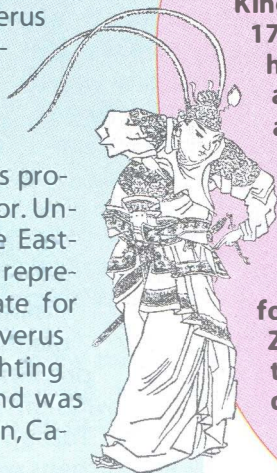
*Septimus Severus*

Tell Me Why

and negotiating two peace treaties without being eliminated. Decebalus was shrewd both in his understanding of warfare, and in the waging of war. He judged well when to attack, and chose the right moment to retreat. He was an expert in ambushes, and a master in pitched battles. He knew not only how to follow up a victory well, but also how to manage well in defeat. He fought against the Roman Emperors Domitian and Trajan, and when he was finally defeated, he committed suicide. He is considered a national hero in Romania to this day.



Septimius Severus was born in Africa, at Leptis Magna, on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 145. He was of Carthaginian descent. Severus was a successful soldier, and when his predecessor, Emperor Commodus died, Severus' troops proclaimed him emperor. Under Severus, Middle Eastern provinces were represented in the Senate for the first time. Severus died in Britain fighting the Caledonians, and was succeeded by his son, Caracalla.



## STAR FACT

### Zhou Yu

**Zhou Yu** was a general of Wu of the Three Kingdoms of China over 1700 years ago. He was handsome, intelligent and a famous militarist and strategist. He served Sun Ce during the late Han Dynasty. After Sun Ce's death, Cao Cao led a massive force southward. Zhou Yu defeated this force at the decisive Battle of Red Cliffs in 208.



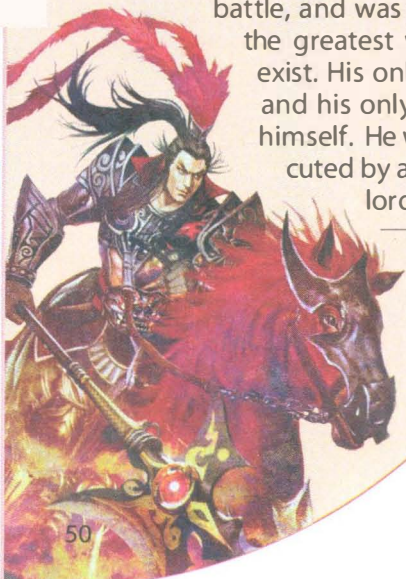
## Why is Lu Bu known as 'The Flying General'?

Lu Bu was a Chinese Han warlord, who lived during the Three Kingdoms period. He was a master of horse riding, archery, and armed combat. He was tall and strong, and because of his speed, skill and strength, he was nicknamed 'The Flying General'. He had a very fast moving horse called Red Hare.

Lu Bu was appointed cavalry commander and Imperial corps commander by Dong Zhuo, a warlord from the Liang province. Dong Zhuo adopted Lu Bu as his son and, Lu Bu became Dong Zhuo's closest bodyguard. However, in the end, he was responsible for Dong Zhuo's death.

Lu Bu was known to have no equal in battle, and was probably one of the greatest warriors to ever exist. His only love was war, and his only loyalty was to himself. He was finally executed by an enemy warlord, Cao Cao.

*Lu Bu*



Ha! Ha!  
I am flying  
Cao!



## Why has Cao Cao become popular in Chinese folklore?

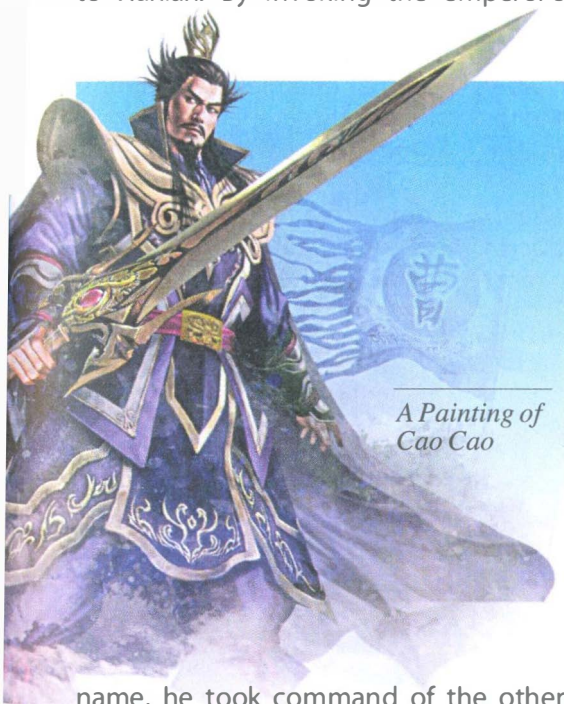
Cao Cao was King of Wei, Prime Minister of the Han, and self styled warlord of the Three Kingdoms era of China. Modern historians view him as a brilliant politician and a skillful general.

Cao was initially a minor garrison commander who rose to prominence as a general when he suppressed the Yellow Turban Rebellion. The Yellow Turbans were a Chinese secret

Tell Me Why



society whose members' uprising, called the Yellow Turban Rebellion threatened the last years of Han rule. The rebellion weakened the country, and is divided it into three kingdoms. Cao Cao took the emperor with him, and moved the capital to Xuxian. By invoking the emperor's



*A Painting of  
Cao Cao*

name, he took command of the other generals, and gradually assumed all imperial powers. His domain was known as the Kingdom of Wei.

Cao became one of the most popular figures of Chinese legend and folklore, with various evil magic powers ascribed to him.

Ancient World's Commanders



### **Sun Quan**

**Sun Quan** was the founder of Wu during the Three Kingdoms period in Ancient China. As a brilliant politician, he showed his talent at an early age, and followed his elder brother Sun Ce in battle when he was 14. After Sun Ce's death, the 19 year-old Sun Quan succeeded his brother's throne. Sun Quan promoted the development of the southeastern region. He kept diplomatic relations with surrounding countries such as India.

## Why will Aurelian be remembered always?

Aurelian was Roman emperor from 270-275 AD. He was the second in a succession of emperors who were originally soldiers. These 'soldier-emperors' helped the Roman Empire regain its power, which had waned considerably during the latter part of the third century, and towards the beginning of the fourth century.

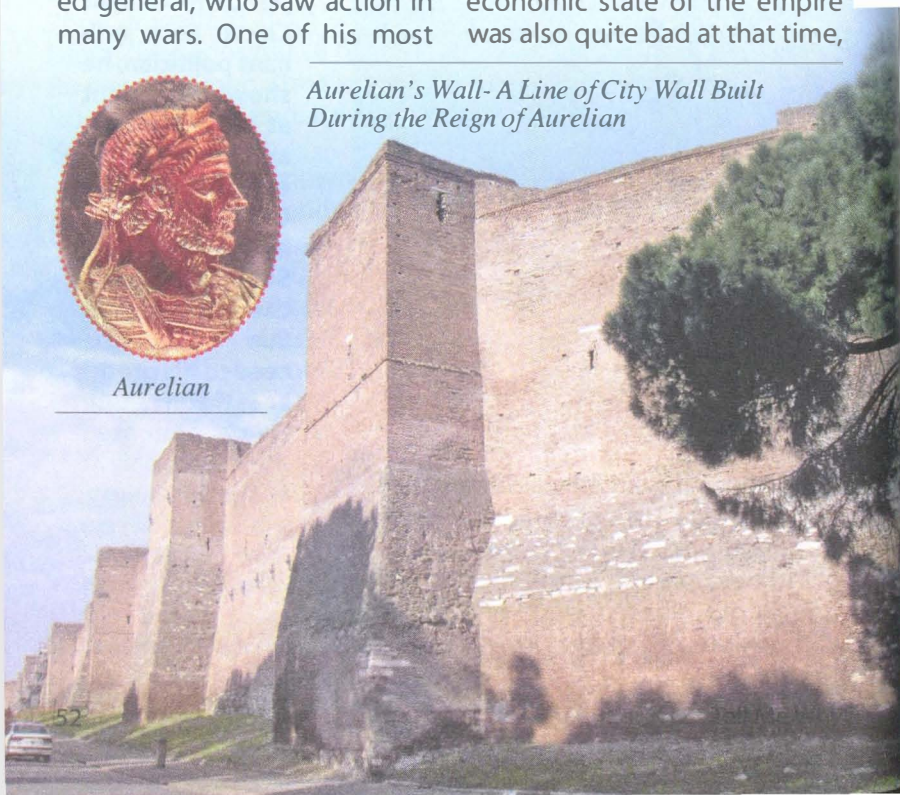
Aurelian was a highly regarded general, who saw action in many wars. One of his most

noteworthy victories occurred in the year 268 AD, when he successfully fought back the well equipped and well trained Gothic cavalry force in the much celebrated Battle of Naissus. When the Emperor Claudius died, the army supported Aurelian as Emperor. At that time, external enemies from almost all sides threatened the Roman Empire. There was the constant threat of rebellious uprisings from within its own walls. The economic state of the empire was also quite bad at that time,



*Aurelian*

*Aurelian's Wall- A Line of City Wall Built During the Reign of Aurelian*



with the agricultural and the commercial sectors in particular, suffering under the general political instability.

One of the first acts Aurelian undertook was to recover the huge territories that the empire had lost in the previous years. After fifteen years of uprisings, and the devastating losses of Rome's territories, it was under Aurelian's rule, that the empire was finally fully united. History will forever remember Aurelian as the emperor, who brought an end to the crisis in Rome during the third century.

Hooray! King Claudius is dead. I am the next king!



*Zhao Yun*

### Why is Zhao Yun considered a 'tiger general'?

Zhao Yun was an important commander of the civil wars of the late Han dynasty, and the Three Kingdoms period of China. For most of his career, Zhao Yun served the warlord Liu Bei, playing a part in the establishment of Shu Han.

In 192, Zhao Yun became a subordinate of Liu Bei, who was serving as a major under Gongsun Zan. Then later, when Liu Bei formed his own personal army, Zhao Yun was his right hand man, and followed him in his battles. In 208, Zhao Yun distinguished himself at the Battle of Changban against the forces of the powerful Cao Cao. After this battle, Zhao Yun single-handedly saved Liu Bei's only infant son, slaying numerous enemy soldiers along the way.

After the Battle of Red Cliffs, Zhao Yun played a major role in conquering additional territories for Liu Bei. He gained fame as one of the five tiger generals of the Shu Kingdom- a term used to refer to the five best military generals serving under one ruler.

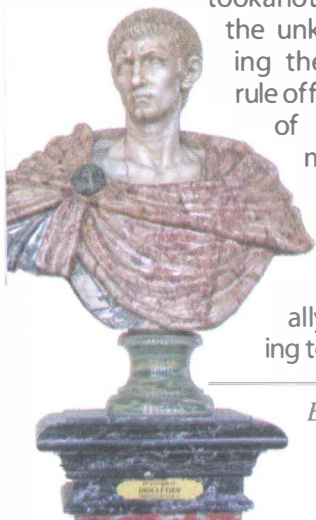


## What was Diocletian's most important step?

Diocletian was a Roman emperor at the end of the third century AD. He was chosen emperor by his troops on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 284. In order to restore order in Gaul, and to prevent competition for the throne, he named his friend Maximian as co-regent, and placed the western part of the empire under his rule.

Diocletian continued to directly govern the Asiatic part of the empire, and Egypt. He secured the state borders, and implemented a new territorial partition of the empire. He separated the military from civilian administration, and reconstructed the inner organization of the army and state bureaucracy. Diocletian took away from the Senate their former rights. Rome was no longer the capital. Then, in AD 293, Diocletian

took another huge step into the unknown by founding the 'Tetrarchy', the rule of four. This new idea of imperial government meant that four emperors would rule the empire. But, this system eventually collapsed, leading to civil war.



*Bust of Diocletian*

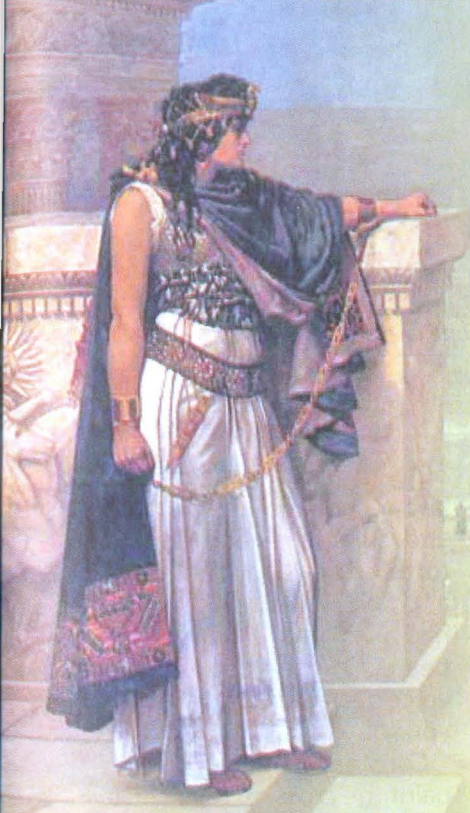
## Why was Queen Zenobia known as 'the warrior queen'?

Zenobia ruled the desert country of Palmyra initially with her husband Odenathus. She was one of the great beauties of her day and was highly educated. She spoke several languages-Egyptian and Greek among them-and also wrote the first complete history of her country. She was an expert in hunting, and in the use of weapons.

In these coins, I am so beautiful...



Tell Me Why



*Queen Zenobia -A Painting*

Though Palmyra was under Rome, it enjoyed a great degree of independence. Zenobia and her husband acquired for Rome the vast territories of Syria, Mesopotamia, and West Armenia. After the tragic death of her husband, Zenobia, won even more territories which she claimed as rightfully hers. Powerful and daring, she started minting her own coins, with her likeness on it, as a sovereign ruler. This, together with

Ancient World's Commanders

her growing influence, made Rome declare war on her.

Zenobia stood up to the most powerful army of her time, and personally directed her armies against the Romans. Sadly, she was betrayed by her neighbours, and defeated. Her beautiful city of palms was turned to ruin, and sacked by the Roman army.

Zenobia will always be remembered as 'the warrior queen'-brave, intelligent, level headed, practical and full of a sheer, devil-may-care attitude that inspires admiration to this day.

*A Statue of Zenobia*





### *A Public Bath Built by Constantine*

#### **What is the Emperor Constantine best known for?**

Constantine is perhaps best known for being the first Christian Roman emperor. Constantine defeated the emperors Maxentius and Licinius during civil wars. He also fought successfully against the Franks, Alamanni, Visigoths, and Sarmatians during his reign. He transformed the ancient Greek colony of Byzantium into a new imperial residence, Constantinople, which would be the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire for over 1000 years.

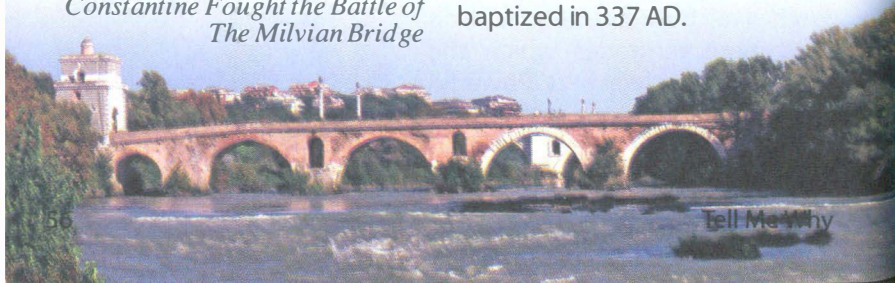
Constantine played a crucial role in the development and spread of Christianity. Previ-

#### *Bust of Constantine*

ously, it had been against the law to believe in Christianity, and Christians had often been tortured or killed. On the eve of a crucial battle, Constantine had a vision of a cross that appeared in the sky. He heard a voice declaring, 'under this sign you will win'.

Constantine had his soldiers paint the cross on their shields- and they did win the battle! Constantine was impressed by the power of the Christian God, and he became a supporter of Christianity. He legally ended the persecution of Christians. Constantine's embrace of Christianity eventually led him to be baptized in 337 AD.

#### *The Milvian Bridge Where Constantine Fought the Battle of The Milvian Bridge*





## STAR FACT



*Picture of Marcus Aurelius Carus on Coin*

### **Marcus Aurelius Carus**

**Marcus Aurelius Carus** had an extensive and successful military career under the Emperor Probus. In 282 AD, when he was inspecting troops in preparation for Probus' campaign against the Persians, the discontent of the soldiers with their emperor boiled over, and they hailed Carus the new ruler.

During his short reign, Carus fought the Germanic tribes and Samaritans along the Danube frontier with success. He campaigned against the Sassanid Empire and sacked their capital, but died shortly thereafter.

### **Why is the life of Emperor Julian an interesting one?**

Flavius Claudius Julianus, known to history as 'Julian the Apostate', was one of the most interesting Roman Emperors. He was the nephew of Constantine the Great, and was brought up as a Christian. However, he was educated in Greece, and this made him a supporter of the pagan religion of Hellenism, even though Christianity had been established as a major world religion. Julian attempted to stop the growth of Christianity, and to restore Hellenism through essentially non-violent means.

Julian was also a skilful general. He took over the command of all Roman forces in Gaul, and carried raids across the Rhine River. He became emperor following the death of Constantine in 361. However, he was killed just two years later, fighting against the Persians.

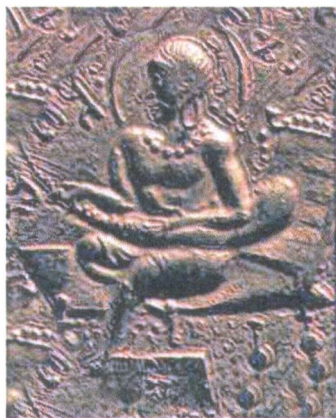
He will be remembered as a great general, a man of learning, and a fine writer, possessing many of the qualities of a wise and energetic ruler.



*Emperor Julian*

## Why was Samudragupta known as 'the king of kings'?

Samudragupta (330-380 AD) was a great emperor belonging to the Gupta dynasty who ushered in the Golden Age in India. He was a benevolent ruler, a magnificent warrior, and a patron of arts. He was the son of Chandragupta I, and inherited a fairly small kingdom. However, once he came to the throne, Samudragupta began dramatically expanding his frontiers. He did not rest until he conquered almost the whole of India. His rule in fact, may be described as a vast military campaign. His territories extended from the Himalayas in the north, to the River Narbada in the south, and from the Brahmaputra River in the



*A Coin of Gupta Period  
Depicting Samudragupta*

east, to the Yamuna River in the west. His greatest achievement can be described as the political unification of most of India.

Samudragupta was not just a great general - he was a great human being too. He was compassionate towards those whom he defeated, and gave various tribal states autonomy under his protection. His court was full of poets and scholars. He had a keen interest in music and arts as well. Is it any wonder that he was known as both 'the Napoleon of India,' and 'the king of kings'?





*A Gold Coin of Theodosius, The reverse side depicts Theodosius and Valentinian II Seated, holding a Globe*

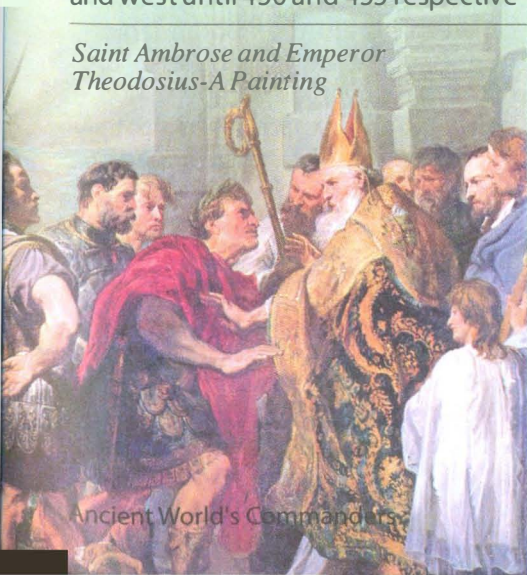


*Theodosius*

### **Why is Theodosius's rule significant?**

Theodosius was Roman Emperor from 378 to 395. He was the last emperor to rule over both the eastern and the western halves of the Roman Empire. He established Christianity as the state religion, and successfully defended it against paganism, and the religion known as Arianism. He founded a dynasty which ruled in the east and west until 450 and 455 respectively.

*Saint Ambrose and Emperor Theodosius-A Painting*



ly. Theodosius brought peace to the east with diplomacy, and defended this with a rebuilt military.

Theodosius carried on a successful war with the Goths, whom he encouraged to become the allies of the Romans. The Eastern Empire was strengthened with the creation of separate military commands reporting directly to the Emperor. During his reign, Theodosius successfully fought two brutal civil wars against usurpers Maximus and Eugenius. As the defender of Christianity, Theodosius defeated pagan forces in 394. This is considered by many to be his greatest achievement.



## STAR FACT

### Chandragupta II

**Chandragupta II** (380-415 AD) was the son of Samudragupta. He defeated the Sakas, and annexed Gujarat and Sourashtra. He was also known as Vikramaditya, which means 'one who is equal to the Sun God in valour and strength'. It was during Chandragupta's time that the Chinese Pilgrim Fa-Hien visited India, and wrote a detailed account on India. An Arab merchant Sulaiman and a Venetian traveler, Marco Polo, have both recorded that Chandragupta II was an ideal ruler.

*The Iron Pillar of Delhi,  
Erected by  
Chandragupta II*



*An Ivory Carving of Stilicho and His Wife Serena and Son Eucherius*

### Who was Flavius Stilicho?

Flavius Stilicho was one of the most powerful men in the Roman Empire during the reigns of Theodosius I and Honorius. When Theodosius died in 395, he left the empire divided between his two young sons, the West going to Honorius, with Stilicho as Regent. The Empire was immediately threatened by the Visigoths, under Alaric, who led them into Greece. Stilicho forced them to withdraw.

In 400, Alaric invaded Italy. Stilicho called to his aid the Roman legions from Gaul and Britain, and the Visigoths were driven out in 403. In 405, a barbarian horde that poured into Italy from the north was almost wiped out by Stilicho's forces.

Later, a minister of Honorius named Olympius convinced the young emperor that Stilicho wanted to depose him, and put his own son on the throne. Honorius believed this, and ordered for Stilicho's arrest. He later beheaded Stilicho. Alaric immediately invaded Italy again, and captured Rome.

Tell Me Why

## Why was Alaric, the King of the Visigoths very famous?

Alaric was a Gothic prince, born into a tribe that had settled south of the Danube in Roman territory. He became King of the Visigoths in 394. Upon gaining command of the Visigoths, Alaric immediately overran Greece. The Eastern Roman Emperor was too weak to resist him, and called upon Stilicho, the general in charge of the Western Empire, to aid him in driving out Alaric. Then, Alaric escaped to a province of Greece that lay on the east side of the Ionian Sea.

Alaric next launched an invasion of Italy. In fact, the rest of his days would be spent fighting and negotiating with emperors of Rome for his people's livelihood, or attacking Roman territories when negotiations fell through. In 410, during his third attack on Italy,

Alaric led the Visigoths in a sack of the city of Rome. This event is sometimes considered the beginning of the Middle Ages.

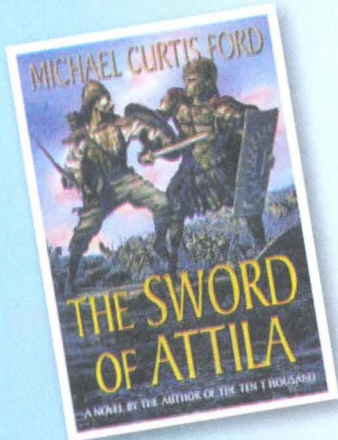


*King Alaric*

*The Burial of Alaric*





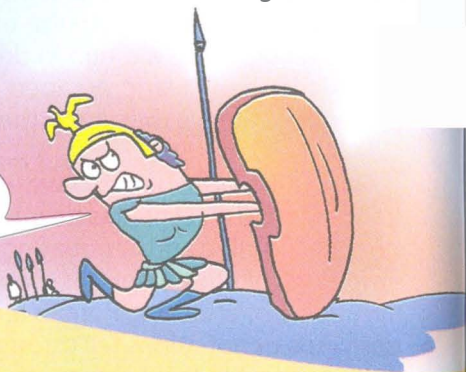


*A Novel about  
Attila and Flavius*

## Why does Flavius Aetius have an important place in Roman history?

Flavius Aetius was a gifted soldier, who did more than any one man to help slow the inevitable fall of the Roman Empire, to the barbarian nations in the West, during the reign of Valentinian III. Aetius learned the arts of war well and at a young age, he could hold his own with grown men.

I can  
protect my  
country..



## STAR FACT

### The Huns

The Huns were a war-like people from the

*A Hunnish Camp*



steppes of North Central Asia, north of China. They were excellent horsemen, and their use of the stirrup gave them an advantage over their enemies. Stirrups are loops hung from a saddle that support a horse rider's feet, and these loops let the Huns brace themselves on their horses while wielding swords, or shooting arrows. Their bows were also far superior to those found in Western Europe, because they were flexible enough to fully draw yard long arrows. The Huns also used the lasso very effectively.

Tell Me Why



He learned how to fight, while riding on a horse from the Huns who had held him hostage during his youth. This combined with his knowledge of standard Roman infantry tactics enabled him to come up with deadly strategies for dealing with almost any enemy.

Some of the battles fought by Aetius became famous, while others are known only to scholars of history. When Gaul was attacked repeatedly, Aetius protected it. He drove back the Visigoths and the Franks, and won his famous victory in 451 over Attila at Châlons. During the reign of Valentinian III, Aetius made himself ruler of the Roman Empire, but eventually he was murdered by the emperor himself.

*Flavius Aetius*



### **Why was Attila the Hun called 'the scourge of god'?**

Attila was king and general of the Hun Empire from 433 to 453 AD. The Huns were a Mongoloid people who began invading the Roman Empire in the 300's. Attila united his subjects for the purpose of creating one of the most formidable and feared armies the ancient world had ever seen. He was so ferocious in his attacks, that he was called 'the scourge of god,' by his enemies.





*Feast of Attila, A Painting*

From 435 to 439, Attila conquered, pillaged, and attacked his way through Eastern and Central Europe. The success of this invasion emboldened Attila to continue his westward expansion. Passing unhindered through Austria and Germany, Attila plundered and devastated all in his path. He suffered a setback in 451 when he was defeated by the combined forces of the Romans and the Visigoths.

In 452, Attila and his horsemen crossed the Alps to invade Italy. Pope Leo I had to pay him money to stop him from sacking and destroying Rome. He devastated the western half of the Roman Empire, and controlled a region from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea, and from the Rhine River to the Caspian Sea.

## STAR FACT

### **The Death of Attila**

**After his return from Italy, Attila married a young girl. The marriage took place in 453, and was celebrated with a grand feast, and plenty of alcohol. After dinner, the new couple retired to the wedding chamber. Attila did not show up the next morning, so his nervous servants opened the chamber door. The king was dead on the floor—'covered with blood', and his bride was huddled in a corner in a state of shock. No one really knows whether he died of a nose-bleed, or whether he was murdered by his wife, or whether he died of alcohol poisoning.**



## Why was Charlemagne a much-loved king?

Charlemagne was king of the Franks in 768 AD, and one of Europe's most successful monarchs. The Franks were legendary fighters. Using the strength and loyalty of his army, combined with his own leadership abilities, Charlemagne soon defeated most of the other barbarian tribes in Western



*Charlemagne (left) and Pippin the Hunchback*

Europe. He expanded the Frankish Empire to include Germany, all of France, most of Italy, and even sections of Northern Spain.

One of the most important things Charlemagne did for the world was to turn his castle into a learning centre inviting scholars from all over the world to take up residence there. He also introduced many administrative reforms, and a jury system that ensured a fairer way of ensuring justice.

Charlemagne held his kingdom together by the sheer force of his personality. He was over six feet tall, and had blonde hair that seemed to glow in the sun. He fought heroically in battles, and personally visited local administrators, creating new laws to protect his people. Charlemagne was brave and fair, and his people adored him for these qualities.



## **Why was the reign of Otto the Great good for Germany?**

Otto I (Otto the Great) is considered by many historians to be the founder of the Holy Roman Empire. He convinced Pope John XII to crown him emperor, and over the course of his reign, Otto defeated revolts by his half-brother, his younger brother, and his son, and expanded the boundaries of his empire through constant war. He extended the frontiers of the

German kingdom, winning territory from the Slavs in the east, forcing the Bohemians to pay tribute, and gaining influence in Denmark and Burgundy. In 951 Otto became King of the Lombards, and married the queen of Italy.

Otto deliberately made use of the bishops to strengthen his rule and by doing so, he provided a stable and long-lasting framework for Germany. By his victorious campaigns, he gave Germany peace and security from foreign attack.

Though warfare was frequent, Germany was stable under Otto's rule, and a small cultural renaissance flourished. He also extended his authority over the church, and promoted missionary activity in lands he had conquered. By his death, Otto had created the most powerful state in Western Europe, and laid the foundation for the later Holy Roman Empire. Otto I was born in 912 and died in 973 AD.



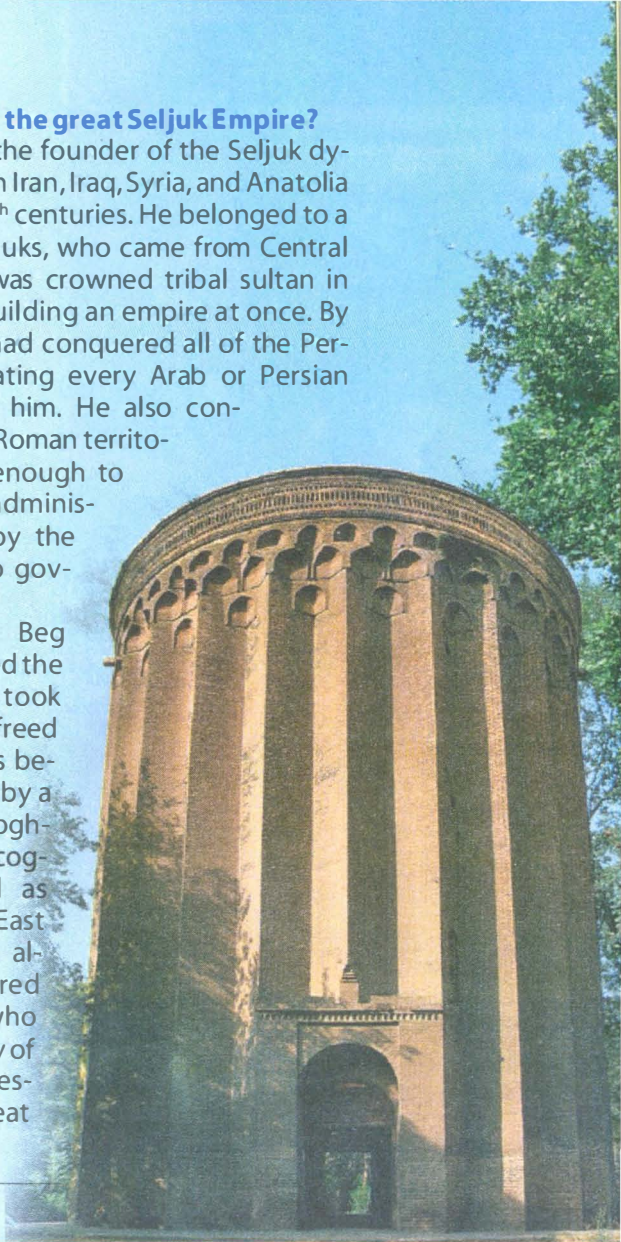
*Otto the Great*

## Who established the great Seljuk Empire?

Toghril Beg was the founder of the Seljuk dynasty, which ruled in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Anatolia during the 11<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> centuries. He belonged to a tribe called the Seljuks, who came from Central Asia. Toghril Beg was crowned tribal sultan in 1038, and began building an empire at once. By 1040, Toghril Beg had conquered all of the Persian Plateau, defeating every Arab or Persian force sent against him. He also conquered Armenia, a Roman territory. He was smart enough to study the Persian administration, and employ the same procedure to govern his empire.

In 1055, Toghril Beg and his army entered the city of Baghdad. He took over the city, and freed the Caliph who was being held a prisoner by a local strongman. Toghril Beg was then recognized in Baghdad as 'Sovereign of the East and West'. He will always be remembered as the ruler who changed the history of the Middle East by establishing the great Seljuk Empire.

*Toghril Tower*







*William the Conqueror invades England*

## **How did William become king of England?**

England's first Norman king, William I, was born in France, and was the Duke of Normandy. He was a cousin of the English king, Edward the Confessor.

Early in 1066, Edward died, and Harold, Earl of Wessex was crowned king. William was furious, claiming that in 1051, Edward had promised him the throne, and that Harold had later sworn to support that claim.

William built a fleet, and launched an invasion of England. Travelling by night, the Normans landed at Pevensey Bay and established their camp near Hastings. On 14<sup>th</sup> October, Harold's army met William's. It was a close-fought battle lasting all day, but Harold was killed, and his army collapsed. William was victorious, and on Christmas Day 1066, he was crowned king in Westminster Abbey.

A Norman aristocracy became the new governing class, and many members of the English aristocracy including bishops, were replaced with Normans.







### William's Reign

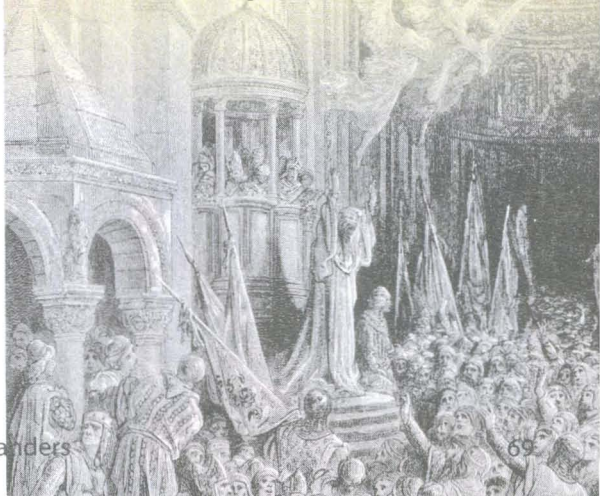
The first years of William's reign were spent crushing resistance and securing his borders, which he did with ruthless efficiency. He brought about many changes too. A complete census was ordered, and a record kept in what was called the Domesday Book. William built many castles, including the Tower of London, and had the language of the court changed to Norman French.

### Why will Enrico Dandolo always be admired by Venetians?

Enrico Dandolo was the Doge, or elected chief magistrate of the former republic of Venice. Dandolo had served Venice in diplomatic, and perhaps military roles for many years, with at least two expeditions involving the Byzantine Empire based at Constantinople. He lost his sight in a battle with his city's Byzantine rivals, but this did not prevent him from making Venice the greatest naval power in the Mediterranean. He did this by building ships for the Crusaders to transport their armies. The Crusaders were missions organized by the Church to recapture Christian lands that had been invaded by others.

The Venetians lent ships to the Crusaders, and supplied their armies with food and fodder for the horses for a staggering fee. The original plan of the Crusaders was

#### *Dandolo Preaching the Crusade*



to land an army in Egypt. However, Venice had a trade relationship with Egypt, and did not wish for this relationship to be threatened. When the Crusaders could not pay the amount that was due to Venice, Dandolo convinced the Crusaders to assist Venice in conquering the city of Zara, which was now under Hungarian control. Zara fell in November of 1202. Despite the plunder and economic gain of Zara, the wealth gained was still insufficient for the Crusaders to break free from their debt. So, Dandolo helped the Crusaders gain complete control over Constantinople on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1204. In the days that followed, the Crusaders pillaged the city.

Venice flourished under Dandolo. His foreign policy ensured Venice gained exclusive trading rights throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Historians often refer to him as the 'founder of the Venetian Colonial Empire'.



*Saladin After the Battle of Hattin*

### **Why was Saladin a remarkable leader?**

Saladin was a famous military hero. His real name was Salah al-Din Yusuf. He was Kurdish, hailing from Tikrit in Northern Iraq. He came to Egypt in 1168 as an assistant to his uncle, who was a general. After Saladin's uncle died the next

### **STAR FACT**

#### **Kings Do Not Kill Kings**

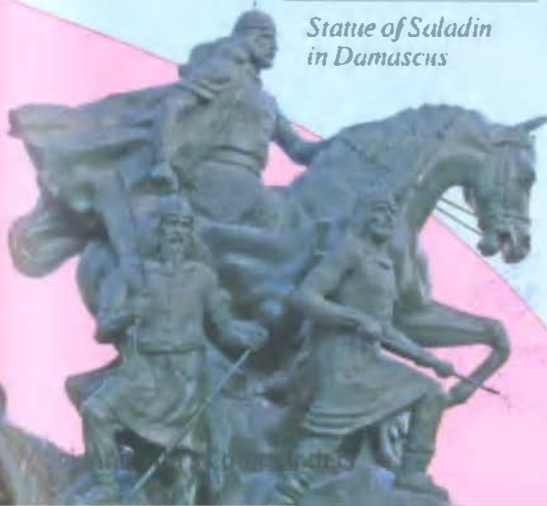
**Saladin** was a brave and virtuous leader. On one occasion, when fighting against the Crusaders, Saladin had blocked the Crusaders access to water. When the Crusaders, led by King Guy, tried to fight their way through, Saladin could have easily captured and killed King Guy. Instead, he let him go, asking only for his promise not to bear arms, with the words 'kings do not kill kings'.

## Great Saladin

Saladin was truly great at heart. Despite the fact that thousands of his men had been brutally murdered by the Crusaders, Saladin granted free passage to all his rivals whenever he captured a city. He gave most of his money away as charity, and when he died, there was not enough money in the Royal Treasury to pay for his funeral!

year, Saladin took power. In the late 12<sup>th</sup> century, he succeeded in uniting various parts of the Middle East and Mesopotamia, and in overtaking the Christian armies of the early crusades through a combination of shrewd diplomacy and decisive action. In 1187, Saladin recaptured Jerusalem at the Battle of Hattin. When his soldiers entered the city of Jerusalem, they were not allowed to kill civilians, rob people, or damage the city.

*Statue of Saladin  
in Damascus*



Wow! My  
uncle left some  
swords too!

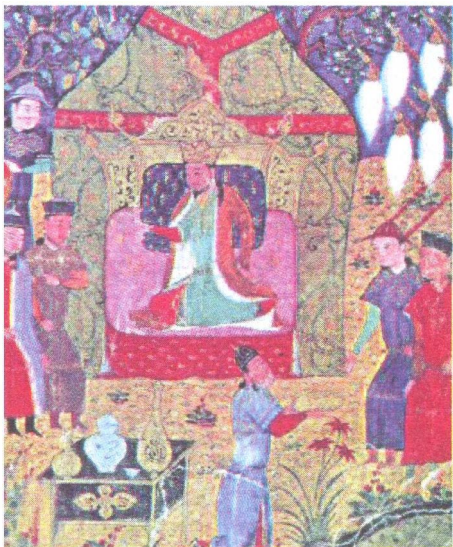


Saladin's capture of Jerusalem prompted King Richard to launch the Third Crusade. Though he came close, Jerusalem eluded Richard. After a year's stalemate, Richard made a truce with Saladin, and started his journey home. In 1193, Saladin died in Damascus. Saladin had earned himself a remarkable place in history.



## How did Temujin become Genghis Khan?

There have been many powerful generals who conquered, expanded their nation's borders, and influenced millions of people by spreading their cul-



*Genghis Khan- An Illustration from a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Manuscript*

ture. Few generals, however, matched the effectiveness and cunning that was possessed by Genghis Khan of the Mongols.

Genghis Khan's real name was Temujin. When his father died, he was still a child, and his father's enemies had the family

exiled, believing that without a clan, and the protection it offered, they would die. However, instead of giving up, the resourceful Mongol family lived off the land, and prospered. Temujin became stronger and stronger, and took control of the family. As he continued to grow, other tribes feared that he was becoming too strong, and devised a plan to capture Temujin. He was then tied with a wooden yoke that restricted his movement. However, he escaped one night by knocking his guard in the head.

After escaping, Temujin started to make alliances with other tribes, and was eventually assimilated into the tribe of his wife. Soon after this event, the camp was raided, and his wife was captured. Temujin rescued his wife. Many men started to follow him, and Temujin was starting to become a Khan.

Over next several years, Temujin gained several more followers, and started training his men for battle. The scattered Mongol people united, and became a single nation. Temujin, after eliminating all his rivals, became the supreme Khan, or Genghis Khan.

## Why is Genghis Khan one of Mongolia's greatest heroes?

After unifying the Mongols, Genghis Khan went on to conquer all of China. He breached the Great Wall, laid waste many cities along the way, and captured the capital. However, Genghis Khan was not a tyrant. He let the Chinese live as they had - there was no pressure to change their customs or persecution of their religion.

Now that the Chinese were conquered, Genghis Khan turned his attention to trade. When the Sultan of Persia killed his ambassadors and refused to trade, Genghis Khan went to war yet again. He conquered almost all of West Asia, expanding the boundaries of the Mongol Empire until it covered almost all of Asia.

After restoring the trade route in the west, Khan returned to his home in East Asia, only to find the people in China had revolted. He stopped the revolt, and was finally returning home when he fell ill and died. Thus ended the reign of Genghis Khan, one of the greatest rulers the world has ever seen.

*Portrait of Genghis Khan on a Hill Side*

Ancient World's Commanders

It's my style of bowling!



## Genghis Khan's Importance

**What makes Genghis Khan so important?**

**Khan's importance lies in the fact that for the first time, he united the east and the west.**

**Couriers and caravans crossed his Empire from border to border - from east to west and west to east, peacefully. Ideas and goods travelled freely. All these resulted in expanding the horizons of cultural areas.**

## Why is Joan of Arc the national heroine of France?

By 1429, the English had occupied Paris, and all of France north of the Loire. They had met with very little resistance, due to lack of leadership.

Henry V of England was claiming the French throne, and the heir to the French throne, the Dauphin, was not allowed to be crowned. It was at this time that a young girl named Joan changed the course of history.

Joan had an ordinary childhood. When she was 12, she began to hear 'voices' of the saints. These voices told her that it was

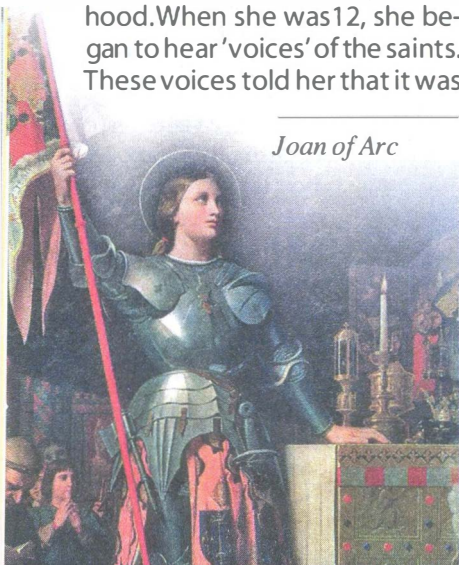
**Julius Caesar's battle cry was 'Venus Victrix', But he is better known for his remark 'Veni,vidi,vici' (I came,I saw,I conquered), uttered after victory over Mithridates's son Pharnaces at Zela, Asia Minor.**

her divine mission to free her country from the English, and help the Dauphin. Joan convinced the Dauphin's forces, and then the Dauphin himself, that she was a messenger of

God. She cut her hair, wore men's clothes, and armed herself. Joan was given troops to command and the rank of captain. At the battle of Orleans, Joan led the troops to a miraculous victory over the English. Later, Joan persuaded the Dauphin that he should be crowned Charles VII, and personally escorted him safely to his coronation. At the coronation, she was given a place of honour next to the king.

Sadly, Joan was later captured by the English, tried, and convicted of being a witch. She was burnt at the stake. But, in 1456, a second trial was held, and she was pronounced innocent. Joan was then recognized by the Church to be a saint- St. Joan of Arc. Today, she is the patron saint of France, and is their national heroine.

*Joan of Arc*





## **Why was Mehmed II's victory at Constantinople a turning point in history?**

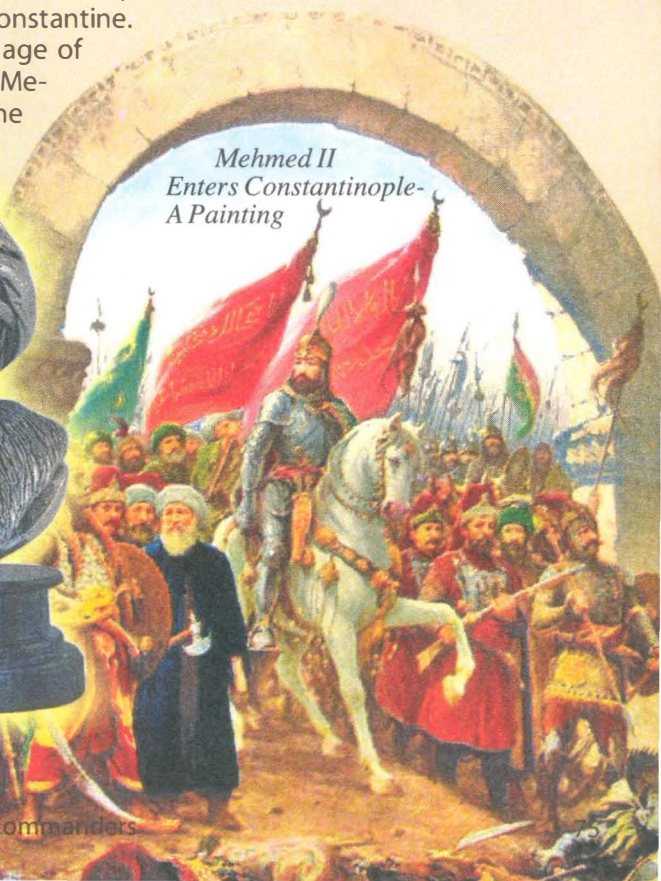
Mehmed II was a sultan of the Ottoman Empire. He extended the empire from Southeastern Europe to the Danube, and from Anatolia to the Euphrates River. However, he is most famous for his siege of Constantinople, and his victory over the Byzantine Emperor, Constantine.

When, at the age of twenty-one, Mehmed II sat on the

throne of the Ottoman sultans, his first thoughts turned to taking over the Byzantine capital of Constantinople. He began his attack by taking control of the Strait of Bosphorus so as to cut off Constantinople from the Black Sea. Working to improve Constantinople's defences, the Byzantine Emperor Constantine

*Mehmed II*

*Mehmed II  
Enters Constantinople-  
A Painting*





### *The Entry of Crusaders into Constantinople*

ensured that the massive walls were repaired and strengthened. To prevent a naval attack, Constantine directed that a large chain be stretched across the mouth of the harbour to block Ottoman ships from entering.

Approaching the city with 80,000-120,000 men, Mehmed was supported by a large fleet in the Sea of Marmara. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, 1453, Mehmed arrived with the last of his men. He began battering at the walls of Constantinople, but with little effect. The immense cannon that he had brought was so huge that it required three hours to reload. This meant that between shots, the Byzantines were able to repair the damage that had been caused. Mehmed's fleet was unable to enter the harbour because of the chain stretched across its mouth. Mehmed ordered his men to begin digging tunnels to mine beneath the Byzantine defenses, but this too,





## Why is Francisco de Almeida famous in India?

Francisco de Almeida was a soldier and explorer, who established his reputation as a brilliant commander in the wars



*Francisco de Almeida*

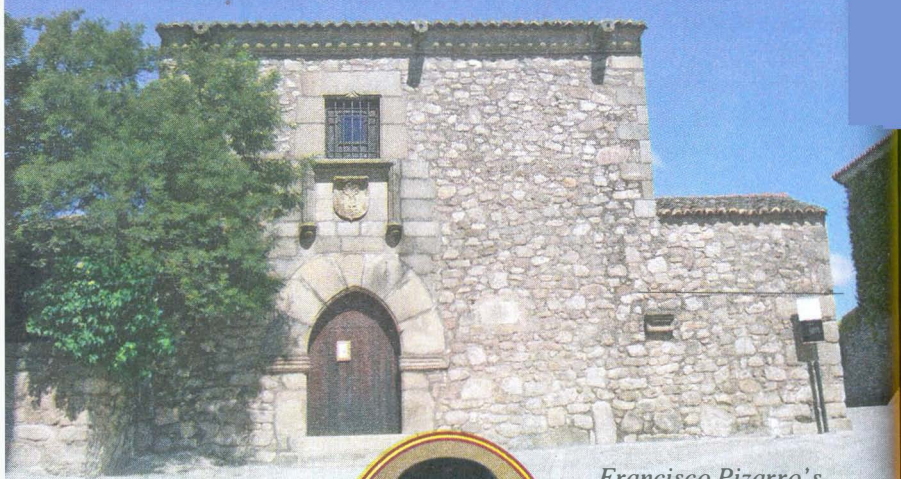
against the Moors of Granada. He was made the first Portuguese Viceroy of India in March 1505 by the King, Manuel I. Instead of sailing directly to India, he spent a year sailing up the eastern coast of Africa, building forts, and conquering Arab trading towns along the way. This provided the ships which followed with safe ports and provisions on the long journey.

On his arrival in India, he established his base at Cochin, and with his son Lourenzo, explored the Malabar Coast and the island of Sri Lanka. He fought Arab, Egyptian, and Indian united fleets at every opportunity. Almeida set sail for Portugal in 1509. While restocking at the Cape of Good Hope, in Table Bay, he died in a skirmish with the Hottentots, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1510.

was unsuccessful. Mehmed now decided that a massive assault would be launched on the night of May 28<sup>th</sup> after a period of rest and prayer. This time, he was successful, and the Turks poured into the city, plundering its riches for three days.

A turning point in Western history, the fall of Constantinople is seen as the end of the Middle Ages, and the beginning of the Renaissance. For Mehmed, the capture of the city earned him the title 'The Conqueror'.





*Francisco Pizarro's  
Home*

*Francisco Pizarro*

### **Why is Francisco Pizarro's story associated with Lima, the capital of Peru?**

Francisco Pizarro was a Spanish soldier and explorer. Although he was born into a poor family, Pizarro settled in Panama City on the Pacific Coast, and became known as one of its most famous and richest citizens. However, rumours about a very wealthy Inca Empire were circulating at the time, and craving more wealth and excitement, Pizarro set out in 1524 in search of this empire. He



traveled through much of the Pacific Coast of America along Peru, and after many years of failed attempts, Pizarro finally 'discovered' the Incan Empire.

Pizarro conquered the Incas brutally and quickly, and stole immense hoards of gold, silver, and other treasures. He looted, and generally destroyed the Incan capital of Cusco, and then founded Lima, which is the capital of modern Peru.

## STAR FACT

### Killed by Gold

During the Aztec revolt in Tenochtitlan, the Spanish were attacked in their palace. They tried to escape by using a portable bridge to cross the canals. However, they were spotted by a woman drawing water from a canal. She raised an alarm, and Aztec troops paddled up in canoes. The Spanish soldiers tried to swim to safety, but were weighed down by the gold they had looted, and they drowned!



*Hernan Cortes*

### Why is Hernan Cortes associated with Mexico?

In 1519, an explorer by the name of Hernan Cortes left his home in Cuba in order to explore Mexico. The major civilization in the region was that of the Aztecs, led by Montezuma II. Cortes and over 500 men arrived in Mexico, and began travelling towards the Aztec capital of

*A Monument of Hernan Cortes in Mexico City*





Tenochtitlan. It is thought that Cortes's arrival coincided with an Aztec prophecy about a white-skinned god arriving from the east. So, at first, Montezuma welcomed Cortes and gave him lavish gifts. However, relations quickly deteriorated and, fearing an attack, Cortes took Montezuma hostage, demanding a huge ransom from his people.

After Montezuma was killed during a revolt in Tenochtitlan,



Cortes laid siege to the city, which fell after three months. A new settlement, Mexico City, was built on the ruins, and settled with Spanish colonists, becoming the centre of Spanish America. Cortes secured control over Mexico, and in 1523, was named governor and captain general of New Spain.

### Why was Ivan IV called The Terrible?

When Russia had a royal family, the emperor was called the Tsar. Tsars ruled Russia from 1547 to 1917. The first Russian ruler to use this title was Ivan IV, also known as Ivan the Terrible.

Ivan the Terrible assumed the throne in 1547 at the age of sev-

enteen. His reign was peppered with battles with foreign invaders, and by a rule of terror never before seen in Russian history. Ivan suspected conspiracies everywhere, and eventually announced he would abdicate because of the lack of loyalty around him. He was only willing to continue to rule if he could deal with alleged deserters at his discretion.

His terms were accepted, and Ivan launched his reign of terror. He hired a large personal army, the Oprichniki, and all potential traitors were cruelly executed. People were impaled and mutilated,



## The Death of Ivan

**Ivan's death has been a point of controversy, as there are several versions, some of which assume that he died a natural death, while according to others, he was murdered.**

**It is said that Ivan died while playing chess with one of his close associates. However, in the 1960's, after Ivan's tomb was opened and his remains exhumed, it was discovered that they contained high amounts of mercury which led to speculation that he was poisoned. Another theory is that, Ivan was strangled by one of his enemies.**

● **Pankaj Khanna**

*A Portrait of Ivan IV*



while whipping, and torture were common. Ivan built a palace in Moscow, and the dungeons were supposedly full of prisoners, of which at least twenty were tortured to death everyday in front of the laughing Tsar. Thousands were hanged, drowned, or deported, while the buildings and countryside were plundered and destroyed.

Despite his cruelty, Ivan improved Russia's governmental

administration, and contributed to the nation's culture. Ivan was also a good writer, with a talent for biting sarcasm. He was eager to maintain political relations with Europe, and was a devout adherent of the Orthodox Church. Ivan alternated between periods of savagery and piety, often sending great memorial payments and treasures to monasteries- yet nothing could wipe out his reputation of being truly 'terrible'!



*Battle of Azukizha*



*Tokugawa Iyeyasu*

## **Why is Tokugawa Iyeyasu revered in Japan?**

Tokugawa Iyeyasu was a warrior, statesman, and founder of the Tokugawa dynasty of shoguns. At the time of his birth, Japan was torn by civil war, with violent feuds between territorial lords which had lasted for nearly a century. Iyeyasu's father's death had left him as leader of the clan known as Matsudaira.

In 1567, he allied with Oda Nobunaga, a powerful neighbour, and spent the next decade-and-a-half campaigning with Nobunaga while expanding his own influence and wealth. He had by now gained a considerable military reputation. When Nobunaga was assassinated in 1582, Iyeyasu acquired more territory, and allied with Nobunaga's successor, Hideyoshi.

The leading military figures in Japan now began to scheme against each

other, and civil war again broke out. In 1600, Iyeyasu defeated his enemies in the Battle of Sekigahara, thereby achieving supremacy in Japan. In 1603, Emperor Go-Yzei, the ruler only in name, gave Iyeyasu the historic title of Shogun or military governor. Japan was now united under Iyeyasu's control. He worked hard to restore stability to Japan, and encouraged foreign trade.

Iyeyasu died on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1616 and his mausoleum at Nikko has become one of the most important shrines in Japan.



## Why is Yi Sun-sin honored in Korea?

Yi Sun-sin was a famous Korean naval commander. When the Japanese, under Toyotomi Hideyoshi, invaded Korea in 1592, Korea would have fallen if it weren't for the leadership of Admiral Yi. He alone was responsible for turning the tide of this important era of Asian history.

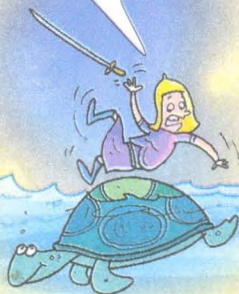
Admiral Yi is famous for the turtle ships that he designed. These were the first ironclad warships, and played a significant part in the war against the Japanese invaders. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1597, Admiral Yi led 12 turtle ships against 133 Japanese ships in the Myeongnyang Straits.

*Yi Sun-sin*



水死勇士  
丁未年九月十六日  
李舜臣

My God!  
It's only a turtle,  
not turtle ship!



The Koreans sank 31 enemy ships, and sent the others fleeing in this battle. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1598, Admiral Yi was shot during the final battle of the war. He commanded that his body be hidden by a shield so his enemies could not see that he had fallen. He was only 54 years old when he died.

There have been many great military leaders honoured for their service to their countries- and without doubt, Admiral Yi Sun-sin of Korea is one of them.





*Maurice of Nassau*

### Why was Maurice of Nassau a respected military figure?

Maurice of Nassau was a Dutch general and statesman. In 1585, he was made the chief executive of the northern provinces of the Netherlands. Maurice consolidated the power of the provinces against Spain, and made them trade and shipping centres. Under his guidance, the power and wealth of the republic rapidly increased, and the Dutch East India Company was formed.

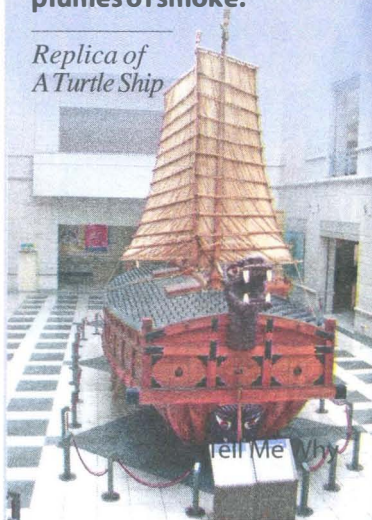
Maurice used military planning and siege warfare to defeat Spanish forces. He made the Dutch army the most modern in Europe. He created a system of proper military training for officers, particularly in the technical branches. On the death of his elder brother Philip William, in 1618, Maurice became the Prince of Orange. He was now supreme in the state, and effectively the King of the Netherlands.

## STAR FACT

### Turtle Ship

The turtle ship, also known as the kobukson, was designed by Admiral Yi. It was the first ironclad ship in the world. This armed warship played a significant part in Korea's victory over Japanese naval forces. Yi Sun-sin used overlapping iron plates like the carapace (hard shell) of a turtle, to give stronger protection against enemy arrows and gun shots. Cannons were placed to give all round offensive fire, iron spikes guarded the ship, and a dragons head at the prow blew out frightening plumes of smoke.

*Replica of  
A Turtle Ship*



## How did Peter the Great make Russia a major European power?

Peter the Great was a very capable Russian emperor, who possessed exceptional abilities as a statesman, organizer, and reformer. He engineered a series of reforms that put Russia among the major European powers. Peter opened Russia to the west. He invited the best European engineers, shipbuilders, architects, craftsmen and merchants to come to Russia. Hundreds of Russians were sent to Europe to get the best education, and learn different arts and crafts.

One of Peter's main goals was to regain access to the Baltic Sea and Baltic trade. In 1700, he started the Northern War with Sweden, which lasted for 21 years. In the course of the war, St. Petersburg was founded. In this war, Russia was victorious, and conquered the vast lands on the Baltic Coast. Russia gained access to European trade. St. Petersburg became

Ancient World's Commanders



*Peter the Great*

her major seaport, and Peter made it his capital.

Peter was an experienced army officer, navy admiral, and a skilful shipbuilder. It has to be said that Peter was also very cruel. Several coup attempts against him ended with mass executions. Nevertheless, Pe-

ter's personality and massive reforms have inspired generations of historians, writers, and ordinary people.



*A Monument to Peter the Great*

PETRO PAVLOVICH  
CATHOLICINA  
MDCCCLXXXIII

### Why is Jean Baptiste de Gribeauval credited with revolutionizing the French artillery?

Jean Baptiste de Gribeauval was a French military officer and engineer, whose developments of French artillery contributed to the brilliant military successes of Napoleon in the late



*Jean Baptiste de Gribeauval*

attached to the Austrian army as a general of artillery. Returning to France as a lieu-

18<sup>th</sup>, and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He joined the French army in 1732, and was promoted to the rank of officer within three years. During the Seven Years' War, which lasted from 1756 until 1763, Gribeauval was at-

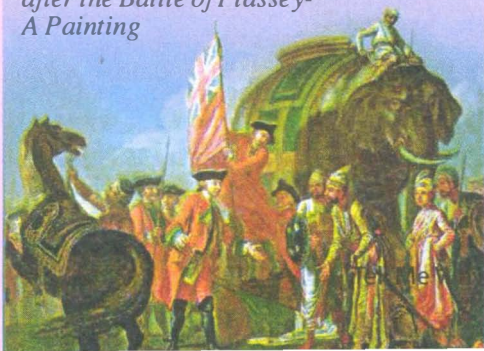
### Why does Robert Clive occupy an important position in both Indian and British history?

The young Robert Clive was an uncontrollable teenager who terrorized the people of his hometown in Britain. Finally, Clive's long-suffering father could stand no more, and the young man was packed off to India, at the age of 17, as a clerk in the East India Company in Madras. In 1746, Madras was captured by the French, and Clive and several

others escaped to Fort St. George, 20 miles away. Here he joined the East India Company's private army, and found his role in life—that of soldier, imperial statesman and politician.

Clive quickly began to build a reputation for courage and skill in battle in the wars against the French. With a force of just 200 Europeans and 300 native soldiers, backed up with a handful of guns, Clive took the central fort of Argot, and

*Robert Clive's Meeting with Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey—A Painting*





Do you  
want to fly  
like that...?



tenant general, he attempted to use the knowledge he had gained in Austria to improve his country's obsolete artillery system.

In 1776, Gribeauval was assigned to the position of general of artillery. He trained younger officers, including Napoleon Bonaparte, and was able to implement his artillery reforms on a broad scale. He also introduced many reforms that made the French army a leader in the use of artillery.



proceeded to hold it against all the odds. His exploits won him the name Sabut Jung, or 'the daring in war'.

Later, Clive became Lieutenant Colonel and Deputy Governor of Fort St. David. He was involved in several key battles. One was the battle of Calcutta in February 1757. This inspired a series of victories that led to the decisive win at the Battle of Plassey - a battle that strengthened British control of India. Thus, Robert Clive had almost single-handedly secured the beginning of the British Empire, and brought about the unique mix between British and Indian cultures.

Are you  
ready?



### Death of Clive

**On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1774, Clive was found dead at his home. He may have shot himself, taken an overdose, or slit his throat - accounts vary. However, it is generally accepted that he stabbed himself with a penknife, overcome by the depression to which he was prone.**

## Why is George Washington a national hero in the United States of America?

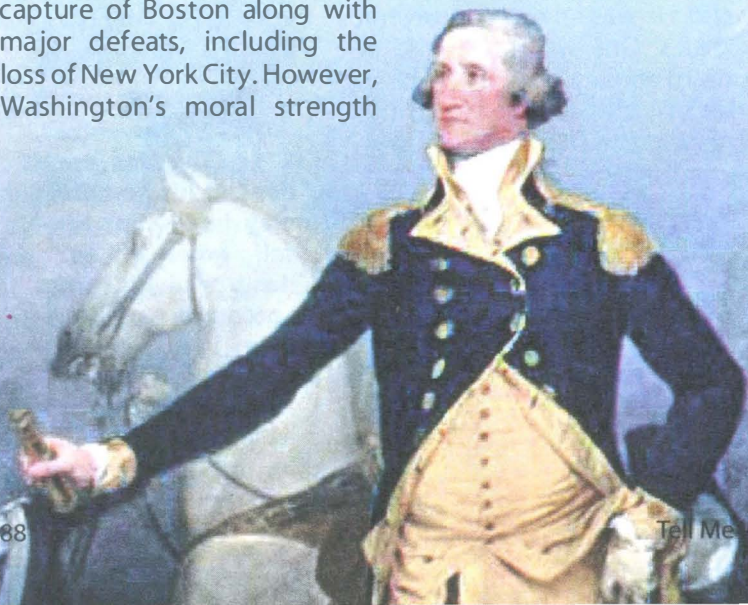
George Washington was the first President of the United States of America. He served as President from April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1789, until March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1797. As a young man, Washington joined the Virginia militia. After many heroic battles, Washington became a colonel, and the leader of Virginia's militia. In the American Revolutionary War between Britain and her colonies in America, Washington was unanimously named Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army. He led them to significant victories, such as the capture of Boston along with major defeats, including the loss of New York City. However, Washington's moral strength

kept the American army in a fighting mood, despite many trials and setbacks.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 the United States government published the Declaration of Independence, but the war continued. However, by 1781, the United States had won several big battles. In October, the English army surrendered to George Washington. That was the end of the Revolutionary War, and Washington, who was immensely popular as a war hero, was an obvious choice as the first President of the United States of America.

---

*George Washington*







## Why was Simon Bolivar known as 'The Liberator'?

Simon Bolivar was a patriot, statesman and liberator of five South American republics. His life was dedicated to the independence of the then Spanish colonies, and the dream of Latin American unity.

In 1810, he fought against the Spanish during a revolt in Venezuela and was forced to flee the country. Bolivar again invaded Venezuela again in 1817. He established a revolutionary government at Angostura, and he was elected president of Venezuela. In 1819, Bolívar's army defeated the Spanish at Boyacá. Several months later, he became president of the newly formed republic of Colombia, consisting of Venezuela and New Granada.

In 1824, Bolívar led the revolutionary forces of Peru in their fight for independence. He was elected president of Peru in 1825, and later organized in Southern Peru a new republic, which was named Bolivia in his honour. Today he is known as 'The Liberator'. His integrity, high morals, and perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds have made him a role model for many.

*Simon Bolivar*



**Why is Benedict Arnold considered both a hero and a traitor?**

Benedict Arnold was a military hero for both sides in the same war between Britain and the Americans. He began his career as an American Patriot in May 1775, and led the brigade that captured Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. Arnold's heroics continued in September, when he led an expedition of 1,150 riflemen against Que-



*Benedict Arnold*

bec, the capital of British Canada. Even though the effort ended in disaster, he fought bravely and honourably. For the next five years, Arnold served the Patriots side with distinction in one battle after another.

No general was more imaginative than Arnold, no field officer more daring, no soldier more courageous.

Yet Arnold has gone down in history not as a hero, but as a military traitor who, as commander of the American fort at West Point, New York, in 1780, schemed to hand it over to the

**Bolivia**

**Bolivia was named after of the Commander in Chief of the Liberation Army, Simon Bolívar. He was the first president of Bolivia after the country gained its independence in 1825. His surname comes from La Puebla de Bolibar, a village in Biscany, Spain.**

● *Sneha Rao*



British. Why did he do this? It is said that after so many sacrifices, he became disillusioned with the war's progress. Perhaps even more important, he grew deeply mistrustful of the cause's civilian leaders and, ultimately, Arnold himself felt betrayed. He began to feel that British rule would perhaps be best for his country—but the fact is that he will be remembered as both a hero and a traitor to his country!

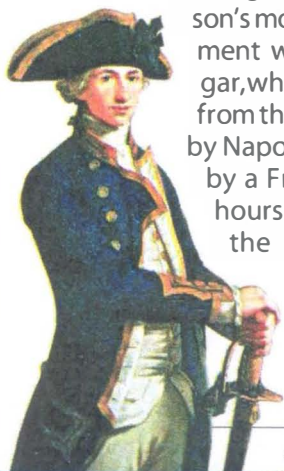
*Bolivia*

## **Why is Horatio Nelson a national hero in Britain?**

Horatio Nelson was a British naval commander and national hero, famous for his naval victories against the French during the Napoleonic Wars. When Britain entered the French Revolutionary Wars in 1793, Nelson was given command of the *Agamemnon*. He served in the Mediterranean, helped capture Corsica, and saw battle at Calvi, where he lost the sight in his right eye. He would later lose his right arm at the Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife in 1797.

Nelson led his fleet to many victories against the Spanish off Cape Vincent in 1797. At the Battle of Copenhagen, four years later, he ignored orders to cease action by putting his telescope to his blind eye and claiming he couldn't see

the signal to withdraw! Nelson's most famous engagement was at Cape Trafalgar, where he saved Britain from the threat of invasion by Napoleon. He was killed by a French sniper a few hours later, while leading the attack. Is it any wonder that he is considered one of the world's greatest naval leaders?



*Horatio Nelson*

## A Real Hero

**W**hen soldiers are wounded in war, they generally retire honourably, but not Horatio Nelson! In 1794, he received a wound, at the battle of Calvi, that blinded him in one eye- but he continued leading his fleet, going from victory to victory. In 1797, he lost an arm in a daring, but unsuccessful- attempt to capture a Spanish city, but a year later, he was backfighting. One eyed and one armed, he gallantly continued leading his men until he was killed in action, like the real hero that he was.

● **Namita Dixit**

## Battle of Waterloo



*Napoleon Crossing the Alps*

## Why were Napoleon Bonaparte's military achievements remarkable?

Napoleon Bonaparte was one of the world's greatest military leaders, and Emperor of France. He was a complex man, who at the start of his career was constructive, and took France to new heights of power, but by the end, had brought her years of war and destruction.

In 1796, Napoleon was made commander of the French army in Italy, where he forced Austria and its allies





to come to the negotiating table. Two years later, he conquered Ottoman-ruled Egypt. In 1799, Napoleon became first Consul when the existing government in France was overthrown. In 1803, Britain resumed war with France, later joined by Russia and Austria. Britain inflicted a naval defeat on the French, so Napoleon abandoned plans to invade England. However, he continued his conquests that gave him control of Europe.

The Peninsular War began in 1808. Costly French defeats over the next five years drained French military resources. Napoleon's invasion of Russia resulted in a disastrous retreat. In March 1814, Paris fell, and Napoleon went into exile



on the Mediterranean island of Elba. Later, the Battle of Waterloo ended his brief second reign, and the British imprisoned him on the remote Atlantic island of St Helena, where he died on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1821.

### **The Little Corporal**

Napoleon is sometimes described as being 5 foot 2 inches tall. However, there is a strong argument that this is wrong, and that Napoleon was actually 5 foot 7 inches tall. In any case, he was affectionately called 'the Little Corporal' - maybe because he was often surrounded by much larger bodyguards, giving the impression of him being smaller.



**“Death is nothing; but to live defeated and inglorious is to die daily.”**

*Napoleon Bonaparte*

## Arthur Wellesley Duke of Wellington

Arthur Wellesley, the First Duke of Wellington, was born in Dublin on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1769. At first, he studied at Eton and later, he joined a military college in France. He was at first ADC to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and joined the 33<sup>rd</sup> Highlanders, becoming a captain and a lieutenant-colonel.

After a long service in India, he returned to England in 1805. He led the British army against the French. He was created a Duke, and promoted to field marshal. After Napoleon's return from Elba in 1815, he combined with the Prussian Army under Blucher to deliver a final crushing defeat to the French at Waterloo.

● N.T. Nayar

## Why is Carl von Clausewitz known as a philosopher of war?

Carl Von Clausewitz was a Prussian soldier and German military theorist who stressed



*Carl von Clausewitz*

the moral and political aspects of war. He entered the Prussian army in 1792. Clausewitz became one of the leaders of Prussian army reform, but later resigned from the Prussian army and entered Russian service.

Clausewitz distinguished himself as a Russian staff officer. After several successful campaigns, he returned to Prussian service, and served as chief of staff of an army corps during the Waterloo campaign. In 1818, he became a general and was appointed administrative head of the War College.

During the next 12 years, Clausewitz used much of the leisure that this position provided in writing his historical studies and his major work on strategy, 'On War'. It is on this that his fame rests. He left his imprint on German military thought, and became known as a 'philosopher of war'.

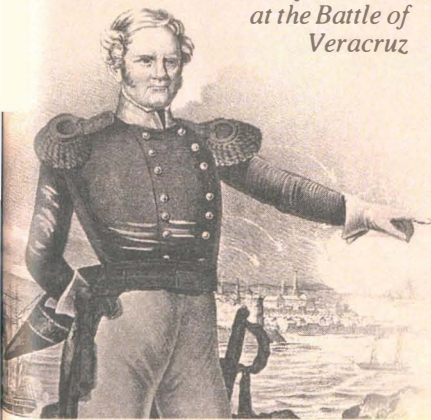
## Why was Winfield Scott known as 'Old Fuss and Feathers'?

Winfield Scott is generally considered the greatest American general in the time between George Washington and Robert E. Lee. He was the Mexican War supreme commander of the U.S. army, and led the southern expedition in a successful military



*Winfield Scott*

*Winfield Scott  
at the Battle of  
Veracruz*



campaign from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. Though he was wounded several times, the 6-foot 5-inch, 230-pound officer showed such judgment and courage that he was promoted to brigadier gen-

eral, and won several other honours too.

Winfield Scott became a soldier at a time when the U.S. Army was very ineffective. By hard work, he

made himself the best military man in the country. Moreover, he was a negotiator who avoided war on several occasions.

In 1852, the Whig presidential nomination went to Scott, but he was defeated easily. Three years later, the US Congress recognized his accomplishments by naming him a lieutenant general. He was known as Old Fuss and Feathers because of his attention to detail, and love for gaudy uniforms.

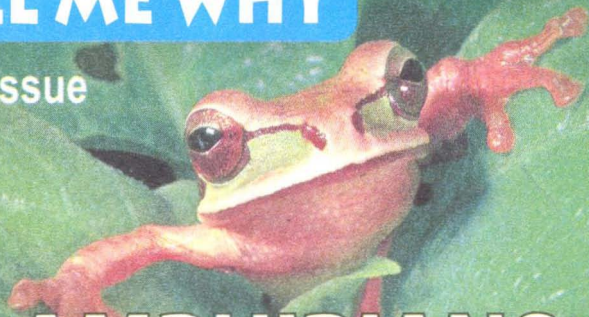




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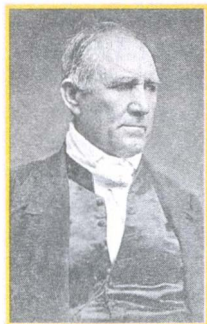
# TELL ME WHY

Next issue



## AMPHIBIANS

**100 + FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD OF  
FROGS, TOADS, NEWTS AND SALAMANDERS**



*Sam Houston*

*Houston struck by  
an arrow shot by a  
Creek Indian at  
the Battle of  
Horseshoe Bend*

**Why was Sam Houston considered one of the most colourful figures in Texas history?**

Sam Houston was one of the most colourful and controversial figures in Texas history. He spent much of his youth, in the mountains of Tennessee where he became acquainted with



the Cherokee Indians, with whom he spent a lot of his time.

With the outbreak of the second war with England, Houston enlisted as a private soldier, and was made sergeant of a company. He excelled in the military, and quickly won the admiration of his men and his superiors.

Houston dabbled in law and politics, and was elected delegate from Nacogdoches to the Convention of 1833 which met at San Felipe. From that time onwards, Houston emerged as a prominent player in the affairs of Texas. Later, Houston was elected commander-in-chief of the armies of Texas, and immediately took control of the Texas forces. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1836, his forces managed to secure long sought independence for Texas.

In the fall of that year, Houston was elected the first President of the Republic of Texas. After Texas became a state in 1845, Houston was elected Senator from Texas to the Congress of the United States- and then, in 1859, Houston was elected to serve as Governor of the State of Texas. Houston died at his home in Huntsville on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1863. The city of Houston, Texas, was named after him.

Ancient World's Commanders

## CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

*It is our policy to correct errors, and present differing views and clarifications about the contents in previous issues. Please send in your feedback, mentioning the title and page number.*

**Ms. Swathi Ural**, a software engineer from Bangalore, has sent us some add-on information on our July issue, Great Women.

She writes about two great women, Kittur Rani Chennamma and Rani Abbakka. Kittur Rani Chennamma (1778-1829) was the first women ruler to fight against British rule in India and Rani Abbakka of Ullal (1544-1582) is the first woman ruler to fight against a colonial power - the Portuguese.

Rani Chennamma fought bravely to defend Kittur from British. She had some initial victories too. However, she was defeated and kept in the fort of Bailhongal for life, where she died in 1829.

Rani Abbakka Devi was the ruler of the temple town of Moodabidri. The port town of Ullal served as their subsidiary capital. She fought against the Portuguese.

*Thank you Ms. Swathi, for your valuable feedback.*

Editor

# I Wonder Why? — The question of the month

Aren't there many little things you have wondered about, but didn't know whom to ask? Send us your questions, and we will give you the fascinating reasons behind the incredible mysteries of life.



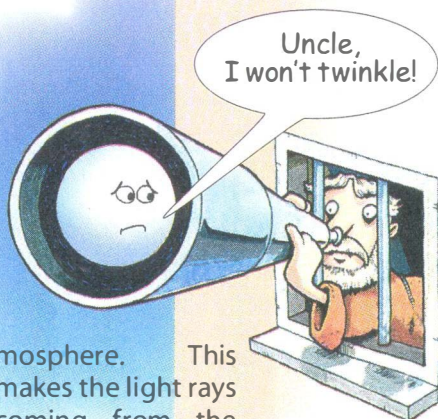
## Why do the Moon and planets not twinkle like stars?

The first thing to understand is that even stars do not actually twinkle - they just appear to do so! This is because of turbulence in the Earth's at-

mosphere. This makes the light rays coming from the stars irregular. How much these variations occur, depends on the local conditions. For instance, in cities, there would more heat rising into the night sky. Such conditions will make the light coming from the faraway

stars unstable. Because we see the faraway stars as mere points of light, they seem to dance around. This is what we call twinkling. The Moon and planets are far closer, and thus don't appear as mere points of light. So, changes in the fall of the light rays do not have so pronounced an effect. If you look through a telescope, however, the effects of the turbulence can be seen as a quivering around the edge of the disc of the Moon and planets. Scientists have learned the trick to cancel out the effects of turbulence, and get a true image of a star. This technique is called 'adaptive optics'.

● Arvind Bhat



mosphere. This makes the light rays coming from the stars irregular. How much these variations occur, depends on the local conditions. For instance, in cities, there would more heat rising into the night sky. Such conditions will make the light coming from the faraway

MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - ANCIENT WORLD'S COMMANDERS

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